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Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-94-144 *27 July 1994*

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Russian Official on Interstate Economic Committee

MK2607132894 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian, 26 Jul 94, p 3

[Report by Yevgeniy Spiridonov from ADS under the "Commonwealth" rubric: "Multinational Economic Police for CIS. Drafting of Statute on Interstate Economic Committee Under Way"]

[Text] An international group of CIS experts, which was tasked by decision of the CIS Coordinating Consultative Committee [CCC] on 14 July 1994 with drawing up a statute on the Interstate Economic Committee [IEC], started its work today so as to submit the document to the meeting of Commonwealth heads of government scheduled for September 1994. This was said to your ADS correspondent by Vladimir Pokrovskiy, deputy Russian Federation minister for cooperation with CIS countries, who joined the expert group from the Russian side.

While the recently created Commission for the Economic Union (CEU), which operates as part of the CCC, performs only expert and analytical functions, he said, the IEC, according to its authors' concept, must be the Economic Union's management body endowed with operational and executive functions in the areas that will be turned over to it by the Commonwealth governments. That is to say, as a supranational management structure, it will be able to make decisions binding on all CIS members. According to Mr. Pokrovskiy, existing interstate sectoral cooperation bodies (a total of around 50), whose operation has been plagued by discord, may be "dragged" into the IEC structure in the capacity of its departments, he said.

If a universally acceptable document that would legally formalize a higher level of integration between the economies of CIS members is prepared by September, at the next meeting of heads of government Russia will put forward specific initiatives on free trade—an agreement on which has already been signed—customs tariffs, and mutual payments.

Mr. Pokrovskiy thinks that the fiercest arguments in the process of drawing up the IEC statute may be triggered by the debate on the committee's decisionmaking procedure. At present, most CIS members advocate the one-state-one-vote principle, regardless of their varying economic potentials. Still, one can draw on the EC's method of equalizing "weight categories" between member countries in the voting procedure, taking into account their economic potentials. In this case, for instance, Russia would be given enough votes to block any IEC decision that would put it at a disadvantage economically.

In Mr. Pokrovskiy's view, the states should show the political will to entrust the IEC with the power to impose economic sanctions should any state disregard its decisions and thereby cause damage to other members of the Economic Union. The IEC's weight will be boosted, he thinks, if the Coordinating Consultative Committee, made up of deputy prime ministers, becomes the new committee's board.

Production Continues To Decline Throughout CIS

MM2607150394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jul 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report from the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" roundup: "Commonwealth Production Decline Remains at 28-Percent Mark"]

[Text] In the first six months of 1994 CIS countries reduced industrial production by 27.6 percent compared with the same period last year, although in June production output was 4 percent up on May's level, so the CIS Statistics Committee has announced. The highest indicators for decline continue to be seen in Georgia, where industrial production fell in the period from January through June by 50 percent. The group of "leaders" in terms of negative indicators now also includes Ukraine (36 percent), Turkmenia [Turkmenistan] (33 percent), Belorussia [Belarus] (31.5 percent), and Kazakhstan (29 percent). The decline in Russia is somewhat below the average indicator for the CIS, currently standing at 25.8 percent.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 27 Jul

LD2707063194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0606 GMT 27 Jul 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow July 27 ITAR-TASS—ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA devoted nearly three of its pages to the official text of the "main provisions of the state programme of privatisation of state and municipal enterprises in the Russian Federation after July 1, 1994". In connection with coming into force of the presidential decree on the beginning of the sell-off for cash, the newspaper highlights what the presidential economic adviser, Aleksandr Livshits said in this connection: "In the field of privatisation, the opportunity remains open for all branches of power to make joint cardinal decisions and equally share the burden of responsibility among all branches of Russian state power".

Many newspapers in the Russian capital lead today with reports about the aggravated situation in the Chechen republic. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA informs the reader about the appeal to Russian President Boris Yeltsin by the provisional council of Chechnya and describes the response of Russian authorities to the appeal, as expressed in a statement of the Russian president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov, as "quite reserved". Along with this, the newspaper noted that Moscow for the first time responded to a call from the Chechen opposition, and surmises that a relevant peacekeeping operation might be put on the agenda in Moscow.

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KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA and PRAVDA carry the ITAR-TASS report about the main strike force of the Chechen armed forces, the Shali tank regiment, which refused to obey President Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord Sergey Shakhray said in an interview with ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA that he was against postponing for two years new parliamentary elections in Russia. "No matter how grievous the results of the past elections were for all Russian parties, we cannot agree with the pronouncements that Russia is "immature", unready for democracy," Shakhray said.

PRAVDA carried an interview with visiting head of the Ukrainian parliament Oleksandr Moroz. The Ukrainian parliament delegation he is leading is in Moscow at the invitation from the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian federal legislature. "We now live in different states, but ours is a common fate and we have common roots. We were stronger, richer and cleaner through mutual enrichment of our cultures, science and educational system. It is our duty to preserve good, fraternal relations," Moroz said, setting forth his views on relations between Russia and Ukraine.

PRAVDA also publishes an article by an economic adviser to the Labour Party in the British parliament who describes the shock therapy in Russia as "an economic Chernobyl". If the Russian Government fails to change its reform strategy soon, the country's economy will find itself on the verge of disaster, and Russia itself might join semi-colonies.

Former dissident Vladimir Maksimov writes in PRAVDA about the rising activity of American special services in Russia. According to him, their objective has remained unchanged since the 1919 peace conference in Paris - "the final destruction of Russia, of the Russian state, of Russian civilization".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA comments on the recent ratification by the Russian parliament of the agreement between Russia and Kazakhstan on the use of cosmodrome Baykonur. The newspaper recalls that approximately eighty percent of the space industry of the former Soviet Union was located on the Russian territory, the mission control centre and the main means of tracking and communication are also Russia's, so no launch can be made without Russian specialists. "The ratified agreement encourages the hope for stabilization and the triumph of reason," KRASNAYA ZVEZDA writes. "We cannot permit things to perish which have been created by generations of people throughout many years".

NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA (NEW DAILY NEWSPAPER) criticizes the Russian federal taxation service for its ill-considered announcement that the major Russian company MMM has failed to pay considerable amount in taxes. According to the newspaper, the announcement achieved only one goal—started panic among small- time investors. The newspaper demands that the tax service and the tax police publish in the newspapers, which earned a pretty penny from advertising the company, the results of their inspection which they reportedly carried out".

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA carries a final report about a sensational discovery made by Russian researcher Tamara Svishcheva. The researcher, who identified the role of trichomonads, primitive parasites, in spreading aids, calls for pulling efforts worldwide to find effective means of fighting these simple organisms, which have existed for millions of years, "in order to prevent them from doing away with mankind as they did with their other biological rivals, the dinosaurs, millions of years ago".

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Reportage on Talks With Estonia in Moscow

Yeltsin, Meri Sign Agreements

LD2607165794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1549 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—"The Russian and Estonian president signed on Tuesday an agreement saying the rights of Russian military pensioners should be respected equally with those of Estonian citizens, as well as an accord under which Russian troops are to be withdrawn from Estonian territory by August 31, 1994", Russian President Boris Yeltsin told TASS right upon the completion of talks with his Estonian counterpart Lennart Meri.

According to the Russian leader, the talks proceeded "with much difficulty".

Talks Continue

LD2707091994 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0600 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] In Moscow, Estonian-Russian talks still continue. Urmas Loit reports:

[Loit] Foreign Minister Juri Luik and Deputy Chancellor Raul Malk continue talks in Moscow today on the subject of the Russian troop withdrawal. Their attention is focused on the scrapping of the training center for submarine crews at Paldiski.

President Lennart Meri said on 26 July that the key issues and deadlines had been argued out at the top level. From 31 August Paldiski will become an Estonian civilian installation. It will require four months to scrap it. There will be not a single Russian servicemen in Estonia after 31 August. An agreement to this end was signed yesterday by Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Estonian President Lennart Meri in the Kremlin. Here is President Lennart Meri:

[Begin Meri recording] Confidence in Estonia has increased substantially at the international level. The climate for investments is about to improve. If we had as sensitive a stock exchange as that in Chicago, this would also show also in this morning's news. [end recording]

[Loit] An agreement on social protection for Russian military pensioners was also signed.

[Begin Meri recording] We advanced precisely within the framework laid down by our parliament and a government decree. [end recording]

No Agreement on Paldiski Facility

LD2707130694 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1230 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] The signing of the Russian-Estonian agreement on the dismantling of the nuclear reactors located on the Russian naval training base in the town of Paldiski near Tallinn, which Foreign Ministers Andrey Kozyrev and Juri Luik planned for the middle of this afternoon, did not take place because of certain disagreements in the drafts of the documents.

As INTERFAX was told at the Russian Foreign Ministry, the Estonian minister will return to Tallinn today. However, Raul Malk, deputy chancellor of the Estonian Foreign Ministry, will remain in Moscow to continue work on the documents.

Yeltsin 'Got What He Wanted'

LD2707081194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0641 GMT 27 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Jul—The Russian president has "got what he wanted in Russian-Estonian talks and has protected the rights of service pensioners in Estonia." That is how Boris Yeltsin assessed the results of the talks he held yesterday with Estonian President Lennart Meri.

Answering questions from journalists before his departure for Krasnoyarsk, Yeltsin said his discussion with the Estonian head of state lasted more than five hours. "These were the longest talks I have ever had with anyone," he said.

Yeltsin said Russia had "spent a long time negotiating" about the status of service pensioners. The Russian Federation president succeeded where there had been failure for three years.

"Estonia succeeded in agitating the West," he noted. "I received letters from Bill Clinton and Helmut Kohl. They all had a slant toward the troop withdrawal. Solution of the human rights problem was being put off for several years."

"But Russia took a tough stand on the human rights issue," Yeltsin stressed. "We managed to ensure that Russian service pensioners are granted equal rights with Estonian citizens."

Kozyrev 'Positive;' Yugoslavia Next Priority

LD2707133794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev was positive on the results of the Russian-Estonian negotiations held on July 26 in the Kremlin.

The documents signed in the Kremlin Tuesday by Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Lennart Meri "drew a line under a historic layer which, like a mine, was placed under the relations between the Baltic states and Russia due to the notorious secret Molotov-Ribbentrop pact," Kozyrev said in his exclusive interview with Interfax.

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"Russia has managed to resolve this issue with dignity having protected the interests of ethnic Russians and other national minorities living in the Baltic states."

According to Kozyrev, this was done thanks to the incremental course of Russian diplomacy "without any damage to people and their rights, without any damage to the Baltic states and Russia's prestige." Kozyrev called this way the most gradual and civilized one: he considers it "the handwriting of Russian diplomacy - inspiring respect in the world."

Kozyrev reported that the solution of the conflict in former Yugoslavia is the next priority for Russian diplomacy. He declared to Interfax that for him this situation, out of all those on the horizon, give him cause for the most concern.

As Kozyrev said, Russia will continue its efforts to peacefully resolve the Yugoslavian conflict "gradually, cautiously, and without bloodshed."

Novosibirsk 'Mafia' Trafficking Drugs Through Estonia

MM2607151594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Leonid Levitskiy: "Novosibirsk Mafiosi Get Into Tallinn"]

[Text] Tallinn—Hashish—nine neat cellophane packages weighing a total of 17.2 kg in a sack marked "sugar"—has been seized by "K" squad and criminal police inspectors in a garage belonging to 24-year-old Vladimir Benchak. To all appearances, other sacks containing narcotics were also stored here.

Last fall, hashish worth hundreds of thousands of dollars was being brought into Estonia from Kirghizia [Kyrgyzstan]. The greater part stood to be transferred further West, but in the republic, too, narcotics are fairly pricey—the profit outweighs any risk. The garage owner could have revealed the origins of the hashish and how much of it there was, but Vladimir turned out to be one step ahead of the police....

Somewhat more successful was the raid carried out by "K" squad—a special subunit in the Estonian police—on the Shtroomi Hotel. It was in Room 502 that the squad arrested four young people, three of whom, like the garage owner, originate from Novosibirsk. The police were particularly pleased to have arrested 24-year-old Sergey Melekhin, one of the Novosibirsk criminal grouping leaders. He has been living in Tallinn since 1992. In February the judge gave permission for his arrest on suspicion of taking receipt under false documentation of containers full of Marlboro cigarettes at New Tallinn port.

The Siberians arrested with him almost did not get into Estonia. They were instantly detained for unlawful entry, but they were freed. The surprise at the hotel has already cost them $20,000. This sum was confiscated during the arrest.

The first Novosibirsk mafia groups, the police report, started operating in Tallinn in 1989. There are now around 30 members. The security police were able to deport the most prominent from the republic. This weakened the mafia, although some of those deported subsequently returned.

Likewise, internal shake-ups are taking their toll. "Veterans," having managed to get together the original capital outlay, are anxious to legalize it through firms and banks, and they are joining up with legitimate business interests. The younger elements have yet to accumulate their money. So they are seeking more broad-based activity for the "brotherhood." This includes racketeering, theft, trading in vehicles, weapons, and drugs. The boys from Novosibirsk have also offered their services to protect Tallinn's ports—another highly lucrative undertaking, if it succeeds.

Understandably, other groups do not warm to this activeness on the part of the Novosibirsk boys. The transport and sale of narcotics in Estonia is already controlled by groups from Azerbaijan, Krasnodar, Kemerovo, Perm, Leningrad, and Riga. Last year the police intercepted over 100 kg of various drugs. The record is held by an operation in which 16 kg of hashish from Kirghizia was successfully seized. The Novosibirsk boys have taken the lead. They have been hauled in for 17.2 kg of hashish right off.

Grachev, Churkin Begin Talks With Serbs

Discuss Contact Group Plan

LD2707082294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0719 GMT 27 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Ivan Ivanov and Aleksandr Kondrashov]

[Text] Belgrade July 27 TASS—Serbia highly appreciates Russia's efforts aimed at ceasing the civil war in Bosnia and hopes for her "objective" approach to the warring sides. Russia's stance will prevent the world community from enforcing one-sided solutions to the Bosnian problem, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic said today at a meeting with Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

Special attention was paid to the so-called "Bosnian plan" which is being developed by the international contact group on Bosnia, the office of the Serbian president reported.

According to the Serbian leader, the plan is to include, apart from a map of land division, a draft of the future constitutional system of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and provide for lifting sanctions against the former Yugoslavia.

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This plan should serve as a basis for a stable and just peace, so much desired by the Bosnian Serbs and the entire Serbian people, Milosevic stressed.

As concerns the U.N. mandate for involvement in the Bosnian conflict, both sides emphasized that there are no grounds for replacing the U.N peace-makers with any other international troops.

Participants in the meeting included Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Vitaliy Churkin and Yugoslav Army Leader Momcilo Perisic.

Churkin Urges Acceptance of Bosnia Map

MM2707082194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Jul 94 p 7

[Interview with Vitaliy Churkin, chief Russian delegate to former Yugoslavia peace negotiations, by Yelena Kalyadina; date, place not given: "Vitaliy Churkin Is Willing To Forgive the Serbs a Great Deal"]

[Text] After the latest map for "carving up" Bosnia had proved a losing hand last week, the international "contact group" of peacemakers who drew up the map in Geneva flew off to Moscow for consultations behind closed doors. When the doors opened and Russia's chief peacemaker Vitaliy Churkin walked out, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA succeeded in persuading him, if not to give away a secret, then to say what he could.

[Kalyadina] Vitaliy Ivanovich, what lies ahead? The great war that you mentioned recently?

[Churkin] No, there is no question of any incursions beginning right away. But it is obvious that the situation will deteriorate. There could be a serious flareup. That is why the conflicting sides must look beyond their secondary interests and make the interests of peace paramount. And thus realize that the present plan is the best thing on the negotiating table and should therefore be accepted.

[Kalyadina] But what can Russia now do to salvage the situation, after its success, in my view, in securing a dual success on the Balkan diplomatic front? On the one hand in contributing to the actual settlement of the conflict, and on the other in asserting its authority.

[Churkin] Thank you for the hidden compliment—a rarity nowadays. Russia has indeed already accomplished plenty, since it has created a united front among the main parties to the settlement while upholding its own positions. As a result it has ensured the fairness of the Geneva plan, even though, as with any compromise, there are many malcontents on both sides. I think that our achievement resides in the fact that we have not only emerged from the shadows in which we found ourselves two years ago, but have also ended up at the very center of the Yugoslav settlement by acting together with the European Union and the United States.

So our conscience is clear, both before our own people, who are demanding resolute action of us, and before the peoples of the former Yugoslavia, who are equally close to us historically and spiritually. But whereas we are most often made answerable for the Serbs, I would say that we have done absolutely everything to help extricate them from the complex situation in which they found themselves.

[Kalyadina] Why are you going to Yugoslavia again?

[Churkin] It is not primarily a question of why but with whom. I am going there under Pavel Grachev's leadership. I think that we should demonstrate once again that Russia is indeed willing to take the most unusual steps. And that is of course what the defense minister's visit to the conflict zone is. If the Serbs come to peace, they can fully count on Russia's aid. During the conference in Moscow it proved possible to agree that a number of very important things for the Serbs would happen as soon as the plan was adopted. For instance, Belgrade and certain other airports that are now closed would be opened to civil flights right away.

[Kalyadina] But won't the terms of the plan change?

[Churkin] It depends on what you mean by terms. The main thing is that the map should be adopted now. Later there will be opportunities to discuss the details and talk as much as you like about exchanging territories. But, I repeat, peace is primarily what is needed. And the Serbs must realize that.

[Kalyadina] Incidentally, a word about them. Vitaliy Ivanovich: Are you no longer angry with the Serbs, as you were recently?

[Churkin] It is not a question of being angry or not. I get really angry when I see them driving their people into a corner. If they accept the plan, I will forgive them a great deal.

No 'Miracle' Likely

MM2607155394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jul 94 pp 1, 3

[Report by Konstantin Eggert: "Russia Is Making a Last Attempt To Persuade the Serbs. Moscow Faces Collapse of Its Policy in Bosnia"]

[Text] Vitaliy Churkin, the president's special representative to talks to settle the crisis in the former Yugoslavia, has left for Belgrade together with Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. This "Russian airborne assault" on the Yugoslav capital represents a last attempt to persuade the Serbs to accept the plan for partitioning Bosnia proposed by Russia, the United States, Britain, France, and Germany.

The fact that Moscow is represented by the head of its defense department, known for his pro-Serb sympathies, is intended to demonstrate to Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic

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Moscow's willingness to secure for them the most favorable conditions in exchange for agreement on the map partitioning Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Russian officials have spent so long trying to convince the world that they have a "special relationship" with the Serbs that up to now they have been unable to face the obvious fact that our "Orthodox brothers" are only inclined to heed Moscow when it suits them.

Only a miracle can result in success for General Grachev's mission. But we should not count on any miracles and therefore we can state with certainty that Andrey Kozyrev will go to the meeting of the five powers' foreign ministers slated for Saturday in Geneva with the knowledge that the Balkan policy he has been pursuing for the past year has failed and was dictated primarily by short-term, domestic political considerations. This is the probable explanation for the wall of silence with which the Ministry of Internal Affairs surrounded the session of the contact group for settling the Bosnian crisis held in Moscow. The well-conceived idea of setting up a working group capable of reacting promptly to changes in the situation has fallen behind schedule. Sympathy for the Serbs which Moscow does not believe it necessary to conceal has allowed Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, his commander in chief, to think that they can act with impunity. Moreover, even President Milosevic is unable to exert influence on his brethren in Bosnia, despite the fact that a tightening of international sanctions against Serbia will follow their refusal to accept the peace plan.

The choice facing the participants at the Geneva meeting is stark. The representatives of the five powers will have to confirm their earlier promise to sanction a lifting of the ban on arms supplies to the Bosnian Muslims, who have accepted the partition plan. This will mean a new spiral of armed aggression with an unpredictable outcome and the inevitable curtailment of UN peacekeeping operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina. UN General Secretary Butrus Butrus-Ghali has already recommended withdrawing all 35,000 "blue helmets" from the former Republic of Yugoslavia, thereby practically acknowledging their impotence.

The question is whether NATO, which has formerly operated in Bosnia under the control of UN representatives, wishes to take on the task of "peacekeeping by force"? Despite an approach to using arms which is considerably more liberal than that of the United Nations and its real need to find a new role in Europe after the end of the Cold War, the North Atlantic alliance is unlikely to agree to large-scale armed intervention. Such intervention could be too costly and bloody. The participants in the Bosnian drama must fight it out to the bitter end on their own, and the impotent world must in the final analysis console itself with the thought that "everyone loves a winner."

Ministry Spokesman Sees 'Delicate Moment' in Bosnia

LD2607174094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Although the Bosnian Serbs' response to the international Bosnian peace plan is evasive, causing little satisfaction, it can serve as the basis for further efforts at reaching an agreement on a regional peace plan, Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin said.

Demurin said that the foreign ministers of Russia, the United States, Germany, France and Britain as well as representatives of the European Union and the United Nations were expected to meet in Geneva later this week to pass a final verdict on the response given to the plan by the warring parties in Bosnian.

"We believe there is a delicate moment ahead, meaning the need for further work with the Bosnian parties," he said.

Demurin said the agenda of yesterday's meeting in Moscow by the "contact group" focussed on what joint efforts can be taken to make the warring sides accept the plan. Demurin stressed the need for further effort both at the level of the "contact group" and on a bilateral basis.

Cites Need to Work With Factions

LD2607141894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1350 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—Although the stand taken by Bosnian Serbs with respect to the action plan moved by the "contact group" is rather elusive and cannot so far satisfy the international community, the Russian Foreign Ministry believes it is not to block further efforts to implement the actions agreed upon in Geneva, Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin said on Tuesday.

According to Demurin, "Now we are facing a very significant, complicated and sensitive moment when work with Bosnia's warring factions should be continued". Both efforts within the framework of the "contact group" on the whole and on a bilateral basis are of great importance in this work. And the current trip to the region by Russia's Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and special envoy Vitaliy Churkin should be looked at in this very context, the spokesman stressed.

Far Eastern Border District Command Protests to China

LD2707081494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] The command of the Far Eastern border district has protested to Chinese border authorities over the death of a Russian citizen, Sergey Pogrebnoy, who lost his life in the border area.

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RIA reports he was killed on 24 July as a result of firing from a Chinese boat. As a member of a voluntary people's border brigade, Pogrebnoy took part along with the border guards in the patrol duties along the Amur River.

This is not the first time Russian citizens came under fire from Chinese poachers, who are actively and illegally fishing in the Amur.

Deputy Foreign Minister Praises Milestone in Mideast Peace

LD2707095794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0847 GMT 27 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Barsukov]

[Text] Washington July 27 TASS—The Israeli-Jordanian declaration which was signed here to end hostilities between the two countries is a milestone in the Mideast peace process development, the deputy Russian foreign minister on visit here told Russian and American newsmen on Tuesday. "We hope progress will be also achieved at other directions of the Mideast peace talks, that is Israeli- Syrian and Israeli-Lebanese ones", Boris Kolokolov said.

Kolokolov had meetings with U.S. President Bill Clinton, King Husayn of Jordan, and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. (although invited, Andrey Kozyrev did not manage to attend the talks. Earlier, he had received an invitation to take part in the conference of foreign ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN)—eds.).

According to Kolokolov, President Clinton said he highly appreciates Russia's role as of a co-sponsor of the peace process in the Middle East. Jordanian and Israeli leaders also recognized the importance of cooperation with Russia in this field, he said.

The Russian official reaffirmed that there is no competition between the United States and Russia in attempts to assist peace in the Middle East. Their efforts have the same target and supplement each other, he said.

Absence From Husayn-Rabin Ceremony Noted

MM2707101794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Nadein: "Historic Handshake on the Lawn. Bill Clinton Makes Peace Between Jordan and Israel in Andrey Kozyrev's Absence"]

[Excerpts] On the White House south lawn in Washington Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan brought to an end the state of war that has divided the neighboring states for 46 years.

It was the same lawn where the Israeli premier and the PLO leader had clearly overcome their bad memories of one another and peformed the "historic handshake" in the presence of the cochairmen of the Near East round-table. The cochairmen were the United States and Russia.

At 1000 hours on Monday, on the same lawn and at the same table the recent enemies shook hands with one another.

Very similar, but not quite the same. There are two significant differences between the two events, milestones in the peace settlement on the Near East.

The first is the absence of a Russian representative on this occasion. No one had formally "removed" Russia from the post of cochairman of the roundtable. But for a long time the United States had been doing all the real work. Its diplomats had brought the warring sides together. Its money had been the reward for good behavior. Its guarantees, backed up by economic and military might, are increasingly seen by the Arabs and Jews as something they can rely on.

The invitation to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to attend the signing ceremony appeared somewhat unnatural even then, in September. It was more a gesture of goodwill on the part of Washington, which had organized and paid for the entire event, than a measure of Russia's actual contribution to Near East affairs.

But after Russian diplomacy took several abrupt steps that did not conform to U.S. plans in the region and even ran counter to them, the friendly gestures were over: Russia was quietly, but firmly pushed into the wings of the main negotiating stage.

The second crucial difference between this agreement and the September one is also a psychological one. To many Jews Yasir 'Arafat is the main organizer of terror, a man who has directly ordered innocent people to be killed. As for King Husayn, he has never been seen in Tel Aviv as the leader of ruthless terrorists—more as their victim. [passage omitted]

This Washington meeting is seen as a link in the chain of a more general Near East settlement. According to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who, in a few weeks' time, is off again to make peace between old enemies, there are grounds for believing that Syria, the biggest state in the region, might also join the peace process soon.

Warren Christopher believes that the authority of Jordan and King Husayn will help to halt the trade boycott of Israel by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait.

For its part, Isarael is putting forward a plan to create a "city of spirituality and peace" in Jerusalem. Behind this is a proposal that the city—cradle of three leading religions—should be equally accessible to people of all faiths.

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But politically Jerusalem must remain under Israeli control and be its "sole capital"—a proposal that is still categorically disputed by PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat. Presumably further complications are brewing between the leader of the Palestinian revolution and the king of Jordan.

Yeltsin Aide on Efforts To Consolidate Karabakh Peace

MM2707101594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jul 94 p 3

[Interview with Vladimir Kazimirov, plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Federation president, by Petr Karapetyan; place, date not given: "Coordination of Russian and CSCE Efforts Has Improved"]

[Text] Vladimir Kazimirov is the plenipotentiary representative of the Russian Federation president with regard to a political settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. At the request of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA, he told us his impressions of his latest trip to the region.

[Karapetyan] What was the purpose of your latest trip to the conflict zone?

[Kazimirov] My latest trip to Yerevan, Stepanakert, and Baku had two basic objectives: To consolidate the status of the cease-fire and continue preparations for the conclusion of a wider political agreement on the cessation of the armed conflict.

Incidentally, for the first time during the conflict and under a personal agreement with the presidents of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Azerbaijani and Armenian aircraft carrying the Russian mediation mission landed twice in Yerevan and Baku respectively.

[Karapetyan] So how is the cease-fire holding up?

[Kazimirov] As you know, a cease-fire was agreed with effect from 12 May this year with Russian Federation mediation, and it has basically held for more than two months. At the same time it is not sufficiently secure at the moment, because there have been certain local incidents.

During these recent meetings the leaders of the two sides in the conflict were basically positive about the way the cease-fire is holding, but most important of all they confirmed their intention to carry on meeting their commitments on this score. I believe it would be useful to record this confirmation in a short document which could be signed by the Azerbaijani and Armenian defense ministers and the commander of the army of Nagorno-Karabakh. This would help preserve more favorable conditions both for signing this major document and for stationing international observers in the conflict zone.

[Karapetyan] How are preparations for concluding an agreement on stopping the armed conflict coming along?

[Kazimirov] Following the cease-fire the two sides confirmed their desire to accelerate consideration of the issues with a view to concluding a political agreement which would include a military-technical angle. We share the view of our interlocutors who believe that we can conclude preparations for signing such an agreement during the coming month.

[Karapetyan] What can be said about cooperation between Russia and the CSCE with regard to settling the Karabakh conflict?

[Kazimirov] For our part, we have informed the leaders of the warring sides about improvements in the coordination of the efforts of Russia and the CSCE Minsk Group during the meetings of the "Minsk nine" held this July and of our talks with Minsk Group Chairman J. Eliasson. At these meetings in Vienna and Stockholm we exchanged opinions on the Russian draft agreement and considered possible amendments and additions to it. Some of our partners from the Minsk group prefer to call it a "consolidated peace plan." But the title is not the most important thing. What is important is that it should be a solid working agreement that is mandatory for all sides in both a political and a juridical sense.

In the next few weeks it is possible that myself and J. Eliasson will make a joint trip to the conflict region. I would like to hope that this trip will be much more soundly prepared that my first rather symbolic trip (12-15 May this year), and consequently that it will be more productive. In order to prepare for this trip, the deputy chairmen of the CSCE Minsk Group —the Swedish envoys M. Mossberg and T. Anderman—are coming to Moscow.

Soskovets Meets With Greek Defense Minister

To Sell Arms to Greece

LD2607175894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Russia is ready to sell arms and military equipment to Greece, however, it is not interested in joint production of arms, Russian First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets declared during his meeting with Greek National Defense Minister Yerasimos Arsenis in Moscow today.

Soskovets explained that Russia intentionally seeks to remain independent from other countries in this sphere and therefore the complete arms production cycle is carried out by Russia.

"We want to bring finished products to the market. If Greece wants to reach military parity with Turkey then it should buy Russian arms," Soskovets said.

He said that while Greece had purchased much Soviet equipment after the unification of Germany it had become obsolete and it made no sense to produce more of it.

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Arsenis said on behalf of the Greek government that Greece was primarily interested in joint work on new kinds of arms with Russia rather than in buying Russian arms. He added that Greece was currently implementing a five-year program for modernization of its armed forces. Arsenis said that several countries were selling arms to Turkey which, according to him, threatened to disturb the balance in the region.

Arsenis stressed that military cooperation between Greece and Russia could lay the foundation for development of economic relations. Arsenis said he believed that military cooperation with Russia could include arms delivery, exchange of experience and technology.

"Due to international agreements Russia has problems on the issue concerning armed groupings on the Southern front," Arsenis said. He added that Greece regards Russia's position on this problem with understanding.

Arsenis also spoke in favor of construction of an oil pipeline from Russia to Greece.

Soskovets said Russia was also interested in the construction of a pipeline going via Bulgaria and Greece. He added that experts must work out the details on this project. He said Russia was also interested in development of the deposit of bauxites in Greece.

Greece said that the issue on development of the deposit of bauxites could be resolved before the end of this year.

Military Cooperation To Continue

LD2607142794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1329 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—Russian-Greek military cooperation should take into account the political situation in the Balkans, Russian First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets said during his meeting with visiting Greek Defence Minister Yerasimos Arsenis. Soskovets added that Russia had been making every effort to extinguish the military conflict in the former Yugoslavia.

Arsenis expressed satisfaction with his meeting with Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and with the agreement signed on Monday. Greece intends to develop a five-year programme to modernise its armed forces, he noted. In this regard, the minister proposed cooperation between the two countries in purchasing Russian arms, exchanging technology and organising joint arms production. At the same time, Arsenis believes that the current military parity between Greece and Turkey should be preserved.

According to the Greek defence minister, military cooperation between Russia and Greece will create favourable conditions for their cooperation in trade and economy. The minister proposed to consider building an oil pipe line in Greece, which may improve the geopolitical situation in the Balkans.

Soskovets believes cooperation between Russia and Greece in arms production is promising. Russia maintains high technologies and continues to produce high-quality arms. Russia is ready to sell finished weapons on the world market, the Russian official said.

According to Soskovets, Russia is ready to consider the issue of building an oil pipe-line across Bulgaria and Greece and of resuming negotiations on joint development of bauxite deposits in Greece.

Balkans Topic of Discussion

LD2607141694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Russia is taking every measure to localize the conflict in former Yugoslavia, Russia's First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets said during his talks with Greek National Security Minister Gerasimos Arsenis on Tuesday.

Speaking about the situation in the Balkans, Soskovets said that military parity must be attained between Greece and Turkey. He also said that Russia and Greece had the same religious roots and were linked with historical bonds of friendship.

Arsenis said that the Balkan policies must be based on the principles of respect for the countries' territorial integrity. Any attempt to change the borders may destabilize the situation, he said.

Moreover, all problems facing the region must be tackled through diplomatic channels. "Military interference will cause an explosion which will go far beyond the region," he said.

Assessing the situation in Bosnia, he pointed out that the dialogue must be continued and that the U.N. peacekeeping contingent must continue to perform its mission. "It is difficult to predict the tragic consequences of any decision to disband the international contact group, lift the embargo on arms supplies to Bosnia and withdraw the U.N. forces," said Arsenis.

Presidential Edict Prevents Arms Sales to Taiwan

MM2707091794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 3

[Unattributed report: "If Taiwan Wants, It Does Not Mean Moscow is Willing"]

[Text] Taiwan may "be forced" to buy submarines from France, Sweden, or Russia, if the United States continues to rejects its offers to buy. This was reported by the Taiwan news agency CNA. The Taiwanese wasted 12 years trying to persuade the United States to sell it F-16 combat aircraft "and we do not intend to repeat the experience.," Admiral Ku Chung-lyan, commander of

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the island's navy, said. According to him, the Taiwanese Navy needs to be strengthened "for purely defensive purposes." But the United States regards submarines as offensive weapons and is refusing to sell to Taiwan, citing strict accords with mainland China.

The "Rosvooruzheniye" state company said that it was the first time it had heard of Taiwan's intentions and that such a transaction could not take place. "There is an edict by the Russian Federation president which we are rigorously implementing. It provides for the sale of arms only to mainland China," the organization's press spokesman said.

Yeltsin Orders Rwandan Arms Embargo To Be Enforced

MM2607150794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jul 94 First Edition p 4

[Russian President's Directive No. 395-rp "On Measures To Fulfill UN Security Council Resolution No. 918 of 17 May 1994," signed by President Boris Yeltsin and dated 21 July 1994]

[Text] In connection with the UN Security Council's introduction of an embargo on deliveries of weapons to Rwanda in accordance with Resolution 918 (1994) of 17 May 1994 and until the UN Security Council's adoption of a decision to rescind it:

1. All state institutions, industrial, trade, financial, transport, and other enterprises, firms, banks, organizations, and private individuals under the Russian Federation's jurisdiction shall proceed in their activity from the premise that pending a special directive the sale or supply to Rwanda by citizens of the Russian Federation or from its territory, whether by ship or aircraft under the Russian flag, of armaments or military materials of all types, including combat facilities and ammunition, military transport facilities, and military hardware, and equipment for the paramilitary police and reserve units shall be prohibited.

2. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, the Russian State Customs Committee, the Russian Ministry of Defense, the Russian Ministry of Transportation, the Russian Ministry of Economics, the Russian Ministry of Finance, the Russian State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, and the "Rosvooruzheniye" State Company shall adopt the necessary measures to ensure that all state institutions, industrial, trade, financial, transport, and other enterprises, firms, banks, organizations, and private individuals under the Russian Federation's jurisdiction abide by the restrictions listed in paragraph 1 of the present directive.

3. The federal organs of the executive and the organizations mentioned in paragraph 2 of the present directive shall submit to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs within one week a report on the measures which have been or are being adopted by them in fulfillment of UN Security Council Resolution 918 of 17 May 1994 and shall subsequently convey it to the UN Security Council Committee set up in accordance with this resolution.

[Signed] B. Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federation Directive no. 395-rp, 21 July 1994.

ITAR-TASS Gives Itinerary for Upcoming Yeltsin Visits

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, July 27 (TASS)—Russian President Boris Yeltsin plans another tour of Russian provinces shortly after his trip to eastern Siberia beginning today. The president announced this himself before leaving Moscow for Krasnoyarsk.

Yeltsin thinks of making a working trip down the Volga with stopovers in Togliatti, Nizhni Novgorod, Kazan and some other cities.

The president also told ITAR-TASS that he is planning a vacation for the middle of September after meeting Chinese chairman Jiang

Zemin in Moscow in early September. He said he was satisfied with Russian-Chinese relations in which considerable headway had been made thanks to his visit to Beijing.

Yeltsin confirmed that he would visit Britain on September 23, after which he will fly to the United States for an official visit and an address to the general session of the United Nations.

Yeltsin Proposes Postponing CIS Summit

LD2607175794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Chairman of the Council of CIS Heads of State, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and CIS Executive Secretary Ivan Korotchenya discussed the results of the recent meeting of the Council of CIS Foreign Ministers, the Council of CIS Defense Ministers and the CIS Coordinating and Consultative Committee in a telephone conversation today.

Korotchenya told Interfax that during their conversation Yeltsin had proposed postponing the CIS summit for October 7. Yeltsin reasoned that it would take time to work on proposals concerning further CIS integration and to submit these projects for consideration by the heads of state. Earlier, the CIS summit was planned to take place in September.

Korotchenya also announced that Yeltsin had put forward an initiative to hold an enlarged meeting of the government, in Moscow on October 9, with the participation of the foreign and defense ministers and the vice premiers responsible for development of CIS relations.

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Kozyrev on ASEAN Interest in Confidence-Building

LD2607191094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1837 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—Once ignored Russia's proposal to set up a centre for conflict prevention and confidence-building measures aroused considerable interest at the ASEAN first regional forum on security in the Asian and Pacific region, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said here on Tuesday.

Summing up the results of his meetings with the foreign ministers of Southeast Asian and other countries participating in the Bangkok conference, Kozyrev pointed to a "radical change" in the position of partners.

Certain initiatives were moved at the forum by Australia, South Korea and other states. As a result, the concluding document adopted by the gathering was of quite a "working" character, according to the Russian diplomat. The document outlines a mechanism of interaction "very like to that of the CSCE: regular meetings of senior officials, ministers and at other levels".

Confidence-building measures, joint centres and other things common in Europe have been tabooed here for quite a long time, Kozyrev said. The situation in Asia is more complicated because of numerous territorial disputes. It was the first time that a forum of such a level resulted in a communique providing for certain interaction between participating countries. Nobody is seeking to conclude a comprehensive Helsinki-styled accord. The point at issue is just the use of certain mechanisms and tools employed by the CSCE.

Participants in the meetings put together by the ASEAN confirmed their support for the Cambodian Government which faces great difficulties in building a newly-independent state. A wide coalition of countries, ranging from Australia to Russia, is likely to charge their ambassadors in Pnom Penh to coordinate assistance to the Cambodian Government in creating necessary state institutions.

The Russian foreign minister also discussed a wide range of international issues with his counterparts from the U.N. Security Council member-countries. During a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, the two sides also discussed bilateral problems ahead of the proposed visit by Chinese leader Jiang Zemin to Moscow.

A conversation with Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas was focused on the non-alignment movement.

Meetings with foreign ministers of the Organisation of Islamic States concentrated on issues tackled by this organisation. "There are a lot of Muslims in our country, some buddhists, representatives of other confessions", Kozyrev said. "our policy should be well- balanced and very considerate towards all religions", he pointed out.

Indian Air Force Chief's Visit Reported

MM2607135794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Colonel Gennadiy Lisenkov, chief of the Air Force Press Center: "Air Force: All Countries Visit Us"]

[Text] Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul, chief of the Indian Air Staff, has arrived in Moscow on an official six-day visit.

On 25 July he visited the N.Ye. Zhukovskiy Aviation Engineering Academy, where he was received by Colonel General of Aviation Petr Deynekin, commander-in-chief of the Air Force. The program for the visit to the Russian Federation envisages a trip to Lipetsk Military Center for the Combat Use and Training of Frontal Aviation Flight Personnel and meetings with the deputy chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry and the general director of the "Rosvooruzheniye" state company. On 28 July the Indian guest and his entourage will go to the Test Flight Institute, where they will be shown the latest Russian fighter airplane, Su-30.

Negotiates Equipment Contract

LD2607123894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1044 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Viktor Samoilov, general director of Russia's state company Rosvooruzhenie, and S.K. Kaul, aviation marshal with the Indian air force on Monday discussed the future of military technical cooperation between the two nations.

Kaul said India hopes to discuss the acquisition of modern aviation equipment and weapons, the Rosvooruzhenie press service told Interfax today.

Samoilov said at the talks that Russia is ready to modernize MiG- 21 BIS [expansion unknown] aircraft used by the Indian air force, as well as weapons systems and equipment for other types of Russian- made planes which were supplied to and produced in India under licenses.

Russia has supplied more than 60 percent of the equipment used by India's armed forces. The Russian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations said nearly half of Russian exports last year was constituted by special equipment. India received a credit to buy $830 million in special equipment from Russia over two years under an agreement signed on September 17, 1992.

Commentary Views Shortcomings of U.S. Assistance

LD2607132494 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpts] In the upcoming commentary, Georgiy Gramachikov contemplates American assistance to Russia. He writes:

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For a start, let's look at the American Senate decision to withhold aid to Russia if it fails to withdraw its troops from Estonia by 31 August. The Russian parliament and press have sharply criticized the Senate's decision, describing it as an unacceptable outside pressure on Russia, which should take decisions relating to its policies independent of any other country.

As for America's economic and financial assistance to Russia, writes Georgiy Gramachikov, my attention was caught by an article in the business newspaper, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. According to the paper, between 50 and 90 percent of America's economic assistance to Russia do not get to the recipient. They end up in the accounts of American consulting firms. Economic assistance to Russia has become for them a giant trough. [passage omitted]

For example, America has allocated funds to help the privatization program in Russia. Immediately, a whole flock of firms descended on the scene to conclude contracts worth millions of dollars. Agents, consultants, all kind of advisers, bravely take the journey to Russia to teach the people how to do it. Such efforts are, of course, rewarded handsomely. The salaries for the multitude of experts take the lion's share of any funds released for any program: 754 million dollars—that is more than half of the sum of 1.2 billion dollars given by the United States to dismantle some missiles in Russia—have been spent on salaries for Americans participating in the work of dismantling.

It would be necessary to point out here, for the sake of objectivity, that many West European businessmen are also not averse to grease their palms on assistance to Russia. According to THE WASHINGTON POST newspaper, the promised European Union aid of 24 billion dollars has turned out to be a (?cynical) farce. United Nations Economic Commission has dolefully confirmed the fact that most of the funds were lodged in Western banks on regular market terms, and only a very small amount got to Russia in the form of direct subsidies.

Russia, of course, is grateful for all forms of assistance by the United States and other Western nations during this difficult period of economic reforms. We highly value the experience and knowledge which Western experts are sharing with us. It's been of great help to the reform process. Many American politicians and other Western leaders have on many occasions stated that economic and political stability in Russia is vital to the national interests of the West and is important for international security.

It's a pity, however—on to this noble affair of assisting Russia, which costs the American taxpayers a great deal, crafty businessmen interested only in how to multiply their individual capitals, have leeched themselves.

Parliamentarians' Visit to U.S. Assessed

MM2607155594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jul 94 First Edition pp 1-2

[Report by Special Correspondent Nikolay Paklin: "Partnership, Not Handouts: A Delegation of Russian Parliamentarians Headed by V.F. Shumeyko Has Visited the United States"]

[Text] The speaker of the upper chamber of the Russian parliament had a host of meetings in Washington. The main meeting was with the U.S. President, although it took place not in the head of the U.S. Administration's office but in the vice president's office. The withdrawal of the Russian troops from Estonia was discussed at the meeting.

This question is not all that significant in world politics. However, it proved to be almost the main issue during the Washington talks. Interest in it was whipped up by the Senate decision to link aid to Russia to the troop withdrawal from Estonia. This linkage also put the U.S. President in an awkward position, because he has been campaigning for support, including financial support, for the democratic reforms in Russia. In Tallinn, however, it was taken not only as "evidence" of the West's solidarity with Estonia's position but also as "pressure" on Moscow. Closer scrutiny revealed this to be totally untrue. This was a case of wishful thinking on Estonia's part.

The head our delegation told B. Clinton how Russia sees the troop withdrawal problem. First of all, it cannot be presented as a problem common to all three Baltic states. The Senate is mistaken when it claims otherwise. For example, Russia and Lithuania had no difficulty in resolving this problem by means of a reasonable compromise. Both states approached it not as a political problem but as a socioeconomic one. Lithuania has helped to built a housing complex in Kaliningrad for the Russian servicemen who have left that Baltic state. Russia has left Lithuania two modern warships. They are now working to protect its sea border. Estonia, however, saw only the political aspect of this problem from the very outset. But to be precise about it the troops in Estonia are not Russian, they are troops of the former Soviet Union to which that country belonged until recently. Furthermore, Russia set the date for their withdrawal—31 August—itself. It has no international obligations on that score. "The longer Estonia persists in its unwillingness to change its approach, the worse things will be for it," Vladimir Shumeyko said.

In B. Clinton's opinion, the withdrawal of the troops from Estonia is a complex problem. It should be resolved by Russia and Estonia. But this question, he noted, is also of considerable significance for the United States...

The impression is being created that, on the one hand, the U.S. President does not intend to make the problem of the troop withdrawal from Estonia a stumbling block in U.S.-Russian relations. On the other hand, he does not

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want a conflict with the senators: His personal popularity in the country has been falling recently and a row with the senators will hardly boost his rating. But a positive outcome to the Russian-Estonian talks would enable him to save face.

Washington diplomatic circles believe that Estonia is clearly exaggerating the significance of the senate's draft amendment. It is not yet known whether it will be included in the draft law at all. After all, there is nothing like it in the original version which originated from the House of Representatives. Now the House and the Senate must create a conference committee which will examine the Senate's draft amendment. If it is included in the draft law, it will be returned to the House of Representatives, which will send it back to the Senate. Only after the draft law has been approved in both chambers of Congress will it reach the president's desk. But the question remains whether the president will sign it. Thus the appearance of a law on aid to foreign states containing a senate amendment in its present form is highly problematical. But that is not the main thing.

The total amount of aid affected by the Senate amendment is $417 million. It is so insignificant given the scale of things here that it is simply ludicrous to regard it as "pressure." Vladimir Shumeyko told his U.S. interlocutors time and again: Russia is not asking for aid and credits, give the $417 million to your small and medium companies doing business in Russia. There is greater gain to be made from that. Direct investments and equitable businesslike cooperation are the most effective way of supporting the Russian economy during its transition to the market.

B. Clinton and V. Shumeyko also discussed the Bosnian question. But by all accounts, no new approaches were found. "There is no answer to the Bosnian problem yet," the head of the Russian senators' delegation said at the press conference. "It is like an iceberg: seven-eighths submerged, one-eighth above the surface. The experts must be given an opportunity to work properly on this problem, especially on its submerged section." When bidding farewell to V. Shumeyko, B. Clinton stressed that the United States is satisfied that the partnership proclaimed by the two countries is being displayed in the approach to a number of complex international problems.

Of course, it was not only the major political questions that the members of the Russian delegation discussed with the Americans in Washington. This time there were many meetings based on people's special professional interests, so to speak. Our senators studied the Americans' experience and shared their own. They had no need to engage in propaganda, as before.

G.N. Karelova, chairman of the Federation Council Committee for Social Policy, and L.A. Ivanova, a member of that committee, visited the U.S. Department of Labor.

"We were struck at how many people in the United States are professionally involved in minimum pay issues," Lyudmila Aleksandrovna said. "But even they cannot fully resolve them. By no means all entrepreneurs observe the relevant legislation. There are quite a few who pay hired workers less than the guaranteed minimum. However, it is extremely difficult to make them pay the full amount."

"I was primarily interested in the actual process of lawmaking and the degree of influence that various forces have on the preparation of laws," P.P. Shirshov, chairman of the Federation Council Committee for Security and Defense Issues, said. "With the senators we discussed the problem of the expenditure of the financial resources earmarked for the elimination of weapons, including nuclear weapons, and for conversion. The United States has allocated us $1.2 billion for these purposes in 1992-1994. The U.S. senators are concerned that this money is not being fully spent. I invited them to come to Russia and see everything for themselves. We have nothing to hide especially since the money is being received by U.S. firms participating in this program."

The visit demonstrated that the parliamentary ties that are being formed between Russia and the United States are designed to play an important role in bringing our countries closer together. That is what the U.S. legislators think, too. The U.S. vice president drew attention to the following aspect of cooperation: Many of the partnership programs that are being discussed and adopted at government level could not have existed without support from the legislators. In his words, the U.S. Administration intends to cooperate with Russian parliamentarians to develop productive and lasting relations with the new democratic Russia. Here's hoping, as they say.

Spending on Shumeyko U.S. Trip Questioned

MM2607153994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 4

[Article by Vladimir Nadein: "They Came, They Saw, They Left. In the Wake of Vladimir Shumeyko's U.S. Visit"]

[Excerpts] Washington—The Russian Federation Council delegation's official trip to the United States began and ended on the same day of the week. They flew out from Moscow on Friday [15 July] and flew back in on Friday [22 July].

It is a good thing that they completed their U.S. affairs toward the end of the week, the day before the weekend, when there is nothing to do in Washington anyway because all officials are on their days off. It also a good thing that they had arrived in America on that particular weekend. They used an entire airplane to travel to Disneyland, they visited Hollywood, and they attended the soccer World Cup final. Their group was so much better for not having any officials from the host side. [passage omitted]

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On condition that he remained anonymous, one of the delegation members reported that television journalists and photographers were set a simple task: However infectious their enthusiasm for the attractions of V.F. Shumeyko and his wife, no matter how much the Federation Council deputies enjoyed their innocent pleasures, not a single frame must get either into the papers or onto the television screens. "So as not to provoke ill-feeling," a television journalist colleague explained to me, adding that his group's leadership had spelled it out that there must be no mention of Disneyland.

The delegation flew from hospitable Los Angeles to welcoming San Francisco. An optional meeting with Governor Wilson was also planned there. Once again it did not come off.

The whole of Tuesday was taken up with the flight and the move to Washington, but to make up for it there were meetings in the Senate Wednesday and on Thursday a visit to the State Department, where there was a conversation with Deputy Secretary of State S. Talbott, Secretary of the Treasury L. Bentsen, and Vice President A. Gore, whose office U.S. President B. Clinton dropped into for 15 minutes. "I wished him enormous political will power and good health," the Russian Federation Council chairman said about this meeting at the final news conference. Other details of their conversation remained unknown.

Shumeyko said that he was "very satisfied with the exchange of opinions." During the talks "complete mutual understanding of the sides' positions was found" and "many practical actions were outlined which will be taken in the near future."

Responding to the journalists' request to cite specific examples, Shumeyko said that "Bosnian problems" and "the question of the troop withdrawal from the Baltic region, which has also proved to be an international question" were discussed.

Through lack of time the chairman of the Russian parliament's upper house dwelt only on the problem of the withdrawal of troops from Estonia.

Shumeyko noted that Estonia is the only one of the three Baltic republics to reject the principle that "they served there so they can live there."

Judging by numerous statements from President Clinton, including those delivered during his recent visit to Riga, the United States is unequivocally denying any linkage of the Russian troop withdrawal with the rights of the Russian-speaking minority in Estonia, so it is incomprehensible how Shumeyko did in fact manage to completely change the U.S. President's mind in 15 minutes. The Federation Council chairman discussed with Vice President Gore "a very important problem associated with healthcare reform in the United States." The population and the state are spending not much less resources than the entire Russian Federation budget on U.S. healthcare. Clinton's reform is a search for money for the minority, which does not have access to first-rate medicine, which is always at the service of the independent majority.

To all appearances there were some translation hiccups during the conversation. Otherwise it is simply hard to explain Shumeyko's comment that "the health of the state means above all the health of mother and child" and that "the same question is being asked here in the United States."

U.S. citizens do not allow themselves to be divided into those whose health is the state's health and those whose health is not so important to the state.

In the light of this truism, indisputable to Americans, the conclusions to which the conversation with Gore led Shumeyko are simply surprising: "Everything was not so bad under socialism. When the two systems, socialism and capitalism, were competing, especially when we were competing with the United States, questions of education and healthcare (in the USSR) were put on a very high level." Shumeyko said that the Russian parliament is preparing a package of healthcare legislation, which "will to some extent affect the reform being carried out here by President Clinton."

The benefit of contacts between parliamentarians from different countries is widely acknowledged, although assimilating others' experience and especially transferring it to other national and cultural soil remains a rather complex problem.

So it is hard to make any complaints against Shumeyko merely because many U.S. realities, which he actually made the long journey with many colleagues to learn about, sound strange and even completely unrecognizable coming from his lips.

For instance, he saw in the actions of the financial institutions of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives a method of how to reject and brand former Finance Minister B. Fedorov's grievances. He peppered his proposal to postpone the presidential and parliamentary elections for two years with references to, if not U.S. support, then understanding in the United States, although this move categorically contradicts the history of U.S. democracy. As is known, the U.S. presidential election took place even at the height of the Civil War.

Finally, a respectful attitude to taxpayers' money is the inexorable law for all government branches. This does not mean that no stealing goes on here. What people here fear more than fire is being found in contempt of the way in which it is spent. But Shumeyko did not see anything strange in the fact that the special government airplane flew to the U.S. west coast (it is the distance between Moscow and Irkutsk) purely for entertainment in two luxury electronic booths and at the soccer stadium.

"I am always surprised when I read items in the newspapers about (State) Duma delegations and so on," he

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said, answering an IZVESTIYA correspondent's question. "That a special airplane is used, while other states' (high-ranking officials) fly on scheduled (airplanes).... A special airplane is far cheaper than scheduled airplane flights. Far cheaper! This special airplane of the presidential detachment has a highly-skilled flight crew.

"When such a trip is being made we usually adopt a decision," Shumeyko explained the procedure for such flights. "Then the president writes the appropriate directive and allocates this aircraft. The cost is within the limits of the budget resources released for the purpose. Not once have we exceeded the sums released for this. The cost of this entire trip will be known when we return. An accountant is traveling with us specially for this purpose.

In response to a clarifying question as to what the estimate for the trip was, Shumeyko said: "I did not even enquire. The cost of the trip is of no interest to me."

Talking of the host country's experience, a few weeks ago President Clinton dismissed a close friend of his who held an eminent post in the administration. The friend was traveling on official business in the official airplane but took his golf bag with him and played golf there. Despite the fact that the president's friend was stripped of his post, he repaid every last cent of the special flight's cost. Had the president not done this, Congress would have set up a commission to investigate the official's conduct.

To all appearances a Federation Council commission will not be set up because of differences in parliamentary procedure. The Russian senators who accompanied Shumeyko have not expressed any doubts about the way in which taxpayers' money was spent.

Ukraine's Moroz Addresses Federation Council

LD2707083894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0700 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Ukrainian Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz addressed the morning session of the Federation Council today. Our special correspondent Vyacheslav Osipov reports:

[Osipov] Oleksandr Moroz greeted the fraternal people of Russia and emphasized that the ties between both peoples, going back over a thousand years, could not be destroyed by political or other actions.

He emphasized that the reforms in Ukraine depended on ties with Russia and other CIS institutions. The chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council said his visit to Moscow was the first step toward the signing of a friendship and cooperation treaty between both states. The treaty should, in the first instance, enshrine the inviolability of the existing borders and remove the issues of Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet, Moroz said. He noted that the problem of reciprocal settlements remained the most complex problem in Ukrainian-Russian economic relations.

The head of the Ukrainian parliament lent his support to the idea of bringing closer the legislative processes of both countries to improve bilateral cooperation.

Spokesman Urges Talks in Moldova to Solve Dniester Dispute

LD2607190694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1347 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Jul—"The current political climate in Moldavia [Moldova], as well as the relative stabilization in the military and political spheres in the Dniester region security zone, means that discussion may be started by all parties involved on reducing the joint armed forces in the conflict zone." This opinion was expressed at a briefing today by Mikhail Demurin, deputy director of the Russian Foreign Ministry Press and Information Department. He said that the Russian Foreign and Defense Ministries have already "started preparatory work on this."

Assessing the situation in the Dniester region, exactly two years after signing the Russo-Moldavian agreement "On the principles of a peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the Dniester region of the Republic of Moldova," the Russian diplomat noted that the main task for Russian mediatory efforts toward settling the Dniester region is "to help get a dialogue going between Kishinev [Chisinau] and Tiraspol."

Orel Regiment Withdraws Last Tu-22 Bombers From Belarus

MM2707102394 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev: "Tu-22 Heads East"]

[Text] In accordance with a directive of the General Staff of the Russian Federation Armed Forces a Russian Air Force long-range aviation division is withdrawing its combat regiments from Belorussia [Belarus].

A few days ago the last two Tu-22 heavy bombers from the Orel Guards Aviation Regiment stationed at Baranovichi took to the skies from the military airfield there and headed east. The aviators should complete the withdrawal of the remaining property and ground-based materiel by 1 September.

Foreign Submarines Spotted in Territorial Waters

LD2707100694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0845 GMT 27 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

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[Text] Moscow, 27 Jul—Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander in chief of the Russian Navy, told an ITAR-TASS correspondent today that foreign submarines had been spotted three times in the Barents Sea near the Russian shores during the past two weeks. He also said that the English frigate "Sheffield", together with a tanker, sailed near them and used its helicopters for reconnaissance during a recent combined combat drill of North Sea Fleet ships.

According to the admiral, this is happening at a time when joint exercises with Western navies have become common and partnership relations have been established with them. "These facts show that there are reasons for stepping up combat readiness—to have a reliable and strong defense of Russia's sea borders," Gromov said.

Scientist Outlines Problems With Joint Space Flight Project

LD2707135494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1051 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Russian experts have criticized several aspects of Russian-US manned space flight projects, because, they argue, Washington may reap all of the benefits unilaterally.

A member of Russia's Tsiolkovskiy Cosmonautics Academy, Vladimir Yaropolov, said Russia objects to using only the US Space Shuttle in the Alpha project (to build an international orbital space station).

Yaropolov said that the US shuttles are unable to put payloads into orbits with inclinations greater than 57 degrees. As a result, the future Alpha space station will be put in orbit with an inclination of 51.6 degrees, which would make it possible to monitor only 5 percent of Russia's territory, 13 European countries and Canada.

If only US shuttles are used, all training will be placed entirely in the hands of the United States, which will give the US total control over the flight program.

Yaropolov said that under agreements signed by Russia and the United States in November 1993, the US will have the exclusive right to manage the international station, although Russia alone has experience building and operating such stations. Moreover, Russia would be entitled to a mere seven days of experiments in orbit a year - proportional to its financial contribution to the project ($600 million, or 2 percent - 3 percent to the total costs).

Yaropolov said that Russia will provide the United States with the essential infrastructures: a docking port for spacecraft, a fuel storage and a power plant, which will make it possible for the United States to build the station much earlier. If the United States launches the project entirely on its own, it will take three or three and a half years longer to complete. Yaropolov fears that Russia's "cooperation with the United States will result in the sale of Russian know-how for a mere several hundred million dollars".

On the other hand, Yaropolov conceded that only US participation in the Russian space program will make it possible to continue research in space, since the service life of the Mir space station expires in 1996, and Moscow will be unable to afford to launch MIR-2 in the near future.

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Political Issues

Yeltsin Leaves for Krasnoyarsk on Working Tour

LD2707064394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0622 GMT 27 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Jul—This morning Russian President Boris Yeltsin left for Krasnoyarsk for a three-day working tour. Before his departure he told journalists at the airport he wanted to get to know the region, which he had never before visited "as president."

Boris Yeltsin noted that in the course of the tour he would visit Krasnoyarsk-26, the town where weapons-grade plutonium is produced. The town and the production should be closed down, but the question is, what to do with the people, the head of state explained.

The president also said that in the course of the tour he would be looking into the situation in the kray's forestry industry.

Kokoshin To Join in Meetings

MM2707101994 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Jul 94 p 1

[Own Information report: "Andrey Kokoshin's Working Trip to Siberian Military District"]

[Text] Andrey Kokoshin, Russian first deputy defense minister, flew out to the Siberian Military District yesterday, where he will be taking part in the Russian president's meetings with leaders of Krasnoyarsk Kray and the directors of the region's industrial enterprises.

During the trip Andrey Kokoshin will also work with the district's combined formations and units and assess the state of affairs as regards the troops' material and technical supplies and the course of preparations for the winter.

Atomic Energy Minister on Krasnoyarsk Combine Plans, Hopes

LD2607220894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1734 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Khots]

[Text] Krasnoyarsk, 26 Jul—Russian President Boris Yeltsin will have to untangle the many problems of the Siberian region during his upcoming visit to Krasnoyarsk on 27-29 July. The head of state has decided to learn more about the problems of the mining and chemicals combine that produces weapon-grade Plutonium. Russian Atomic Energy Minister Viktor Mikhaylov, who arrived in Krasnoyarsk today, reported this in an exclusive interview with the ITAR-TASS correspondent.

The minister noted that the combine was a unique building. It was the first nuclear fuels factory in the world to be entirely situated deep underground in the rock. Unique problems have developed at the combine since two of its reactors were shut down—which conversion program to apply, what to do with the third reactor that does not just make Plutonium but also supplies the 100,000 town residents with heat and power.

The last, third, reactor is to be closed by the year 2000. The plan is to replace it with two or three units for a thermo-atomic station where isotopes will be produced for medical purposes, among others. This is a difficult task but we should not be afraid of work, the minister stressed. As for money, at least 1 billion dollars will be needed to carry out this task. This sum is comparable with the total value of the ministry's annual exports.

However, Viktor Mikhaylov continued, "we are actively seeking a Western partner to invest in our project and already have a number of interesting proposals, including some from countries in southeast Asia, from which to make our choice."

We are expecting approval for our plans and conversion programs from the president's visit that begins on Wednesday, the minister said. "We cannot throw this unique site to the whim of fate, we must try to exploit the potential of the combine and of its highly qualified staff for the good of Russia. We are in a position to do this," the minister said.

Privatization Program Shows Social Accord 'Working'

MM2707090794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jul 94 First Edition p 1

[Commentary by Iosif Galperin on President Yeltsin's 22 July 1994 Edict No. 1535 "On the Basic Provisions of the State Program for the Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises in the Russian Federation after 1 July 1994" under the general heading "Second Stage of Privatization": "Postscript on the Edict"]

[Text] When in a past issue of our newspaper we listed the benefits of privatization contained in the amendments from the Duma's economic committees which, together with the State Committee for the Management of State Property program, failed to secure a majority when put to the vote, we constantly had to use the conditional tense. Now many of those amendments are no longer in the conditional and have been included in the text of the Basic Provisions of the State Program for the Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises in the Russian Federation after 1 July 1994. When signing the edict the President took a balanced stance and did not give any of the radical political wings an advantage.

In the text offered to deputies the amendments were marked in italics. They fitted easily into the original version of the Basic Provisions, which we are publishing tomorrow, and did not stand apart. It is not until the end that you find a paragraph in boldface on the specifics of the privatization of large enterprises with fixed assets of

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around 200 billion rubles. (This says that their future must be coordinated by the organs of state power centrally and locally). But in the Duma's rejected draft its fate was to have been decided by the State Duma itself. Now it has lost that ability and likewise the ability to keep its finger firmly on the pulse of privatization. Perhaps it was hoping to emerge from this difficult process "unscathed," taking the advantages of the edict as self-evident and trying to turn its disadvantages into a political weapon.

But the latter have been taken into account in the new program. Such as the attempt to privatize the plots of land on which the enterprises stand. But in the program they have been added in a compromise form. The State Committee for the Management of State Property agreed to concessions in the social sphere: Only pharmacies may be privatized, and even then under control and with licenses. And of course the justification for the control as proposed by the Duma pragmatists—the intensification of economic levers, the easing of the tax burden, and the improvement of the the investment climate—are all included in the program.

...Thus social accord really is working and developing; and the president, the government, and, if I may put it this way, the constructive opposition are working within it. May God grant that in the Duma, too, the realities which have emerged are reflected after parliament's summer recess in the creation of a new and viable majority.

LDPR, Other Bodies To Withdraw from Social Accord

LD2607182494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] A number of statements from public organizations have arrived at the administration of the Russian president announcing their intention to withdraw from the social accord treaty, said Yevgeniy Yasin, head of the Russian president's analytical center, at a sitting of the conciliation commission in charge of implementing the treaty.

He said that the exacerbation of the crisis in the country, the economic decline, and the failure to pay wages were cited as reasons.

Presidential Aide Georgiy Satarov told RIA that such statements were received from the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia and also from trade unions.

Conciliation Commission Discusses Difficult Situation

LD2607191794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 26 Jul 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Today the Russian presidential administration's center for operational information announced that a routine sitting of the conciliation commission for the implementation of the treaty on the social accord has taken place at Staraya Square. The sitting was chaired by Sergey Filatov. The commission examined progress in implementing the treaty and paid special attention to examining the causes of delayed payment of wages and ways to rectify the situation.

The commission admitted that the country is going through the most difficult stage of the transitional period. However, the endeavor of certain participants in the treaty to remove their signatures is not a solution to the problem.

Proceedings at Law-Drafting Activity Conference Reported

MM2707125394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Anatoliy Stepovoy: "From War of Edicts and Laws to Cooperation"]

[Text] Russia has seen every kind of confrontation, from the parade of sovereignties to open armed conflict. Putting an end to dissension between all branches and levels of power was the task of the working conference on collaboration in law-drafting activity between the Russian Federation president, government, and Federal Assembly, which was held in a sanatorium near Moscow.

Participants in the conference, who represent the entire spectrum of political and parliamentary opinion, summed up the results of the Federal Assembly's activity and the Russian president's law-drafting activity in the first six months of this year. In a spirit of self-criticism, it was acknowledged that collaboration between the Russian Federation president, government, and Federal Assembly chambers has not yet been fully established. Nor does a united program of legislative activity exist in Russia.

It is not hard to divine where such lack of coordination leads. In a country where departmental diktat is even now more influential than the grandest edicts and most perfect laws, surprising events sometimes take place. Some ministry functionaries, in order to get their hands on everything, up to and including legislative functions, issue orders which make your hair stand on end. Just look, for example, at the order on the sterilization of Russian citizens, which originated somewhere deep inside the Ministry of Health. Even legislators have not heard about this health-care threat hanging over us all; Bela Denisenko, chairman of the State Duma Committee for Health Care, has not yet informed them of it. Of course, this is an extreme example, but it graphically illustrates the situation that has evolved in the country's legislative field.

Aleksandr Yakovlev, the Russian Federation president's official representative in the Federal Assembly, put forward the idea of the need to create a unified program for law-drafting activity in Russia. In general, this idea is

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not a new one, but it was supported for the first time by representatives of all three branches of power exercising legislative initiative.

Mikhail Mityukov, first deputy chairman of the State Duma, proposed to make the unified program of law-drafting activity a state program, ratifying it by federal law. He also named five priority tasks which should underpin this program: legislative completion of the building of the Russian constitutional edifice, regulation of economic reforms, creation of a social policy and a new federalism, and reinforcement of law and order.

Participants in the conference acknowledged that the building of a normal constitutional edifice in Russia is not yet complete, and that the definite friction between the Russian Federation president's edicts and the Federal Assembly's laws will not disappear of itself. But not to lead the country into a fatal nosedive by getting carried away by corporate ambitions is an entirely realistic and attainable goal.

Rutskoy Discusses New Opposition Movement

AU2607135594 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 25 Jul 94 pp 1,7

[Interview with Former Vice President Aleksandr Vladimirovich Rutskoy by Petra Prochazkova and Jaromir Stetina in Moscow; date not given: "Aleksandr Rutskoy: The Name of Our Movement Is Power"]

[Text] We met Aleksandr Rutskoy at the meeting of opposition politicians in Moscow. The general had the seat of honor in the first row.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Do you remember the Lefortovo prison often?

[Rutskoy] Sometimes it comes to me.... A cell of two by four meters, a small window....

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Are you not afraid that you might be heading back there?

[Rutskoy] What could I do? I served time in a Pakistani prison, now I spent some time in ours, one can survive anything.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] As opposed to Ruslan Khasbulatov, you returned to political life, appear at the opposition meetings and demonstrations.... Is it a revenge on the present leadership, or what is your motivation?

[Rutskoy] My role in this process is completely different now. I am working very hard on the establishment of a social-patriotic movement called Derzhava (Power).

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Why the name Power for the movement you are organizing?

[Rutskoy] The principal point in the program of this movement is the revival of Russia as a power.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] That is not only your goal, Mr. Zhirinovskiy's objective is the same....

[Rutskoy] His ideas are completely different. I heard, for instance, that he wants to wash his boots in the Indian Ocean [reference to Zhirinovskiy's autobiography—the statement refers to Russian soldiers washing their boots in the Indian Ocean]. The program of my movement will be published in about a week. It discusses the revival of Great Russia in detail. I have been carrying it in my mind for almost two years.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] You are not alone. Calls for a confederation or some other kind of union of the former Soviet republics are heard in Russia ever more frequently....

[Rutskoy] No confederation can regain stability in the geopolitical where the USSR used to stand. Look what happened to the Commonwealth of Independent States—it disintegrated even before it started to exist. There is no place in nature for confederations or some peculiar commonwealths. The only possibility is the unification of nations and nationalities into a single nation. A single economic domain and ruble zone must be created within the 1915 borders.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] What about the states that will not want to enter such a union?

[Rutskoy] They will have to subject themselves to international norms. That is trade in world prices, customs, and borders. If they insult us, we will close all their taps, channels, and electric-power network. And, we will congratulate them on their complete independence. After just two months, these "sovereign" regimes, which rule there today, will be toppled by their own people, who will join us. Thus, we will gradually create a power that used to exist. It will be done peacefully in a civilized manner.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] So, you want to revive the USSR?

[Rutskoy] That is an oversimplification. If we look at the map of 1915, we will see that there are no independent states, and even less states on which nothing depends. There is only Russia—a great "derzhava." There is only one possibility—the revival of a state power uniting all nationalities in a single large family. It is the return to the historical truth, to Russia of 1915. Since a lot has changed, however, only a revival within the USSR borders is feasible.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] What do you need to attain these goals?

[Rutskoy] Power. The main goal of my movement is to take over the power. As long as we do not have power, we cannot achieve a thing. Our minimum program is to obtain a majority in the next elections.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] It is no secret that you are also preparing for the presidential elections. What kind of a president do you think Russia needs right now?

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[Rutskoy] Since time immemorial, Russia has been ruled by a strong personality. Everything depended on what kind of a person he or she was. When it was a moral and intellectual person, who loved his or her country, Russia flourished. When it was someone with a crooked character, Russia was debased, just like it is today. Russia again needs a positive figure.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] You believe that Russia has been debased?

[Rutskoy] Russia today is reminiscent of a one-way street—everything flows out and nothing comes back. They systematically insult our country. They insult the Russians in the former USSR republics, deprive them of the basic human rights, and, at the same time, these states use Russian raw materials, Russian crude oil, Russian natural gas, electric power. And we are just watching. It should be stopped now.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] What do you offer people?

[Rutskoy] To create a Russian power and society of real socialism—not a society of social egalitarianism, but of social justice. We want to give the people a chance to live in a dignified manner. Dignity rather than humiliation, that is the objective of our movement.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] What is the opposition really?

[Rutskoy] It is a highly organized association of people that has a single leader, a clear program, and mass support. If such an opposition with a single leader existed in October last year, the White House bloodshed would not have occurred.

The opposition must unite. Today, one speaks about nationalism, another about the Russian issue, yet another about the Soviet Union, someone claims that we do not need a president, and someone else calls for a parliamentary republic. It is the same at this session. They spoke about generating some funds, about membership dues. Are we building some kind of a trade union? When I regard this cabal, it would be funny, if it were not so pathetic.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] So you are not only in opposition to the government and the president, but also to the opposition. What intimidates you most about their work?

[Rutskoy] All their squalor rests in them not respecting the law and not knowing the meaning of responsibility. Nobody is responsible for anything here, no one is subordinated to anyone, no one has to render an account of his actions to anyone. Look at the Duma. What does it do—I myself do not know. Who is it responsible to? Nobody.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Are you in contact with Ruslan Khasbulatov? Do you intend to cooperate with him in your organization Power in the future?

[Rutskoy] I meet Ruslan Imranovich [Khasbulatov] relatively often. Neither he, nor I, however, have ever planned joint political activity. He helps me a lot. He is a doctor of science, and I have always held him in high esteem. We have prepared the declaration of the Power movement together, and we are working on the program now. If he can contribute to our movement, he will do so.

[LIDOVE NOVINY] Do you have any idea of when the almost disastrous situation in Russian society could turn to the better?

[Rutskoy] As soon as law is put in the forefront, the economy and politics become stable, and production, work, and business discipline can be revived. Until then, we will float like chaotic molecules in the space [sentence as published].

Communist Party Executive Views Situation

MM2707140794 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Ivan Boltovskiy: "And They Say That the Workers Are Asleep. Reportage From Communist Party of the Russian Federation Central Executive Committee Plenum"]

[Text] The question of work in labor collectives and in the workers' and trade union movements provided the agenda for the routine Communist Party of the Russian Federation Central Executive Committee Plenum which took place last Saturday. What is essential to this moment in politics that we are living through is expressed by Lenin's terse formula: "Who's going to win through?" The main concern of the ruling regime is to drive forward the wave of capitalization, which is swallowing up the people's property and dragging thousands and thousands of new people into the whirlpool of speculation, in spite of the threat of mass unemployment.

The wholesale shutdown of enterprises expected this fall cannot fail to provoke widespread dissatisfaction. Its nature will determine the transitional period's fate.

V. Kuptsov, deputy chairman of the Central Executive Committee, noted the increase in the number of strikers in the last six months. Compared to last year it has increased more than 10 times over. The needle of the barometer indicating the mood in labor collectives is assuredly pointing to an increase in stormy weather. How can the elements be overcome in the future? The speaker did not have a ready answer to this question. It will have to be found using the experience amassed in the regions.

The vast majority of Russia's plants and factories have one foot in the grave, and wages have remained unpaid for months now. But the paradox is that in many collectives there is peace and quiet even though there is no sign of prosperity. It has become a commonplace to state the opinion that the workers are "asleep." This is

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what people think who have no knowledge of production, do not see the hundreds of thousands of workers forsaking their qualifications to go into street and "shuttle" trading to feed their families. Not because they have become politically inactive but because there is no force to lead them in the fight for their rights. The opposition is still part of the elite and has not joined forces with the masses. Where such a link exists, the position in the workers' movement is different.

The number of people employed in industry in Moscow fell between 30 and 70 percent compared to 1991. Two thirds of enterprises are candidates for bankruptcy and 1,500 have already crossed the insolvency threshold. And the workers are "asleep" during such a catastrophic situation?! In actual fact the reason for the submissiveness with which the collectives are going to the slaughter at the hands of the privatizers li- elsewhere. The forces of the capital's communists are still weak in the enterprises, and that do exist there are just setting about developing their activities. The city committee has only now decided to support the Moscow Workers' Council which has existed since 1991.

The picture is completely different in the labor collectives of Orel, Orenburg, Chelyabinsk, and, in particular, Mordovia. Yevgeniy Gaziyev, who comes from there, described how the structures for a Workers' Union have practically speaking already been created at all levels in the republic. Teams, shifts, and entire collectives are joining it. Blue- and white-collar workers and engineering and technical personnel are joining. The Workers' Union is in essence becoming an association of working people, the most all-inclusive and influential organization fighting for the socialist path of development

The creation of workers' unions and workers' councils, as for example in Orel, is one trend in the workers' movement. Another is the influx of enterprise directors into it.

"Having experienced the 'women's rebellion' last month, when female workers stopped traffic in Ivanovo but did obtained not a kopek of the promised credits afterward, the enterprise leaders began to set up strike committees everywhere," Vladimir Ilich Tikhonov, general director of the Shuyskoye Cotton Textile Association, says as he shares his textile workers' troubles with them. "Since last November wages have not been paid in the majority of the oblast's factories. In June people received money at only five out of 50 of them. The reason being that they are all at a standstill."

"Today the communists' prestige depends entirely on their desire and ability to resolve specific questions which concern the people," a worker from Ivanovo, Vladimir Cherkashov, said. He gave the examples of how his party organization had defended a school and kindergartens which the municipal authorities were trying to close. "It is gaining prestige in the labor collectives through its actions," the worker said, summarizing the discussion's findings.

Thus in order to seize the initiative in the workers' movement, it is essential for the party to attract all categories of worker to its network of cells and orient itself on specific acts in defense of the working people. Then there will be both belief in communists and a link between them and the masses. The main thing is that the party will become a realistic force.

The plenum called on labor collectives to use all legal means to stop the planned clearance sale of state and municipal enterprises to criminal-comprador capital and save the national economy from final collapse. It is essential to transfer the enterprises to the management of the workers' and strike committees. Neither the people nor the Federal Assembly has given anyone the right to dispose of public property.

Zhirinovskiy Predicts Early Presidential Polls

LD2607132794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1259 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Khabarovsk July 26 TASS—"Elections of the Russian president and supreme power bodies will be held in Russia in 1995, or perhaps as early as this coming autumn", ultranationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said in the far eastern city of Khabarovsk on Tuesday.

Predicting the possible outcome of the next presidential polls, the leader of Russia's misleadingly called Liberal Democratic Party stressed that the proposed elections, although in the second round only, would be certainly won by himself, even if his rival was current Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Zhirinovskiy arrived in Khabarovsk on Tuesday as a member of a parliamentary delegation headed by State Duma Deputy Chairman Aleksandr Vengerovskiy. The lawmakers are making a working tour of Russia's far east with an aim to render practical assistance to the region in solving its pressing problems. They dismissed the suggestion that their trip was somehow related to the forthcoming elections.

Addressing local voters at Khabarovsk's Dinamo stadium, Zhirinovskiy emphasised that his Liberal Democratic Party was the only one to uphold the interests of wide sections of the Russian population.

He subjected to sharp criticism the policy pursued by the current government and president whom he accused of not being able to pull the country out of crisis.

Later in the day, the parliamentary delegation flew off to Vladivostok.

October Congress To Create Union of Democratic Forces

LD2607130494 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] There will be a congress in Moscow aimed at bringing together all Russian democrats. The initiators

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of the congress have announced that it will be attended by the Russia's Democratic Choice movement—the bloc led by prominent economist Grigoriy Yavlinskiy—the Movement of Democratic Reforms, and other social organizations. The congress, due to be held in October, is designed to create a powerful union capable of resisting the extreme opposition. A well- known democrat, Mikhail Poltoranin, believes the creation of the union will help nominate a single candidate from democratic forces for the 1996 presidential elections.

Yeltsin Appoints Local Officials, Replaces Aide

MM2607114394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jul 94 First Edition p 1

["Official Announcement"]

[Text] Under edicts of the Russian Federation president, guided by Articles 83 and 128 of the Russian Federation Constitution, the following appointments have been made:

Aleksandr Dmitriyevich Chernov as chairman of Krasnodar Kray Court;

Anatoliy Nikolayevich Larin as the Russian Federation president's authorized representative in Lipetsk Oblast.

By a directive of the Russian Federation president in connection with the Russian Federation president's Edict No. 1290 of 20 June 1994 "On the Chief of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff Administration for Work With Territories" and in partial amendment of the Russian Federation's Directive No. 82-rp of 17 February 1994, Aleksandr Ivanovich Kazakov is to be included on the Russian Federation President's Council for Cadre Policy, Nikolay Pavlovich Medvedev being excluded.

Yeltsin Backs Independent Media

LD2607124594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1203 GMT 26 Jul 94

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanovia]

[Text] Moscow, 26 July—Russian President Boris Yeltsin backs the idea of gradually removing the fourth estate from under the state umbrella, and of developing a wide network of independent mass media as the key trend in state information policy. The ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from well-informed sources that this subject was raised today at a meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the State Duma Committee on Information Policy and Communications.

Boris Yeltsin voiced the opinion that the package of bills drawn up by the parliamentary committee represents priority measures heading in that direction. Measures to provide financial support for the mass media were also discussed.

Press Committee's Mironov Seeks Damages From IZVESTIYA

MM2707105794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Maks Khasin: "Member of Government in Litigation With IZVESTIYA"]

[Text] The IZVESTIYA Editorial Office has received a writ from Boris Mironov, chairman of the Russian Federation State Committee for the Press, "On the Defense of My Honor, Dignity, and Professional Reputation. On Recompensing My Moral Loss."

The reason for the initiation of the lawsuit was Valeriy Vyzhutovich's article "Combiner of Posts" (IZVESTIYA No. 100, 28 May 1994). The hero of the article rejects several pieces of factual information in it as untrue, as well as the way his political orientation is characterized.

It was one of B. Mironov's agents who penned and signed the refutation sent to the newspaper, while only he himself could have done this. True, the Russian Federation Law "On the Mass Media" does allow for exceptions—such as when the aggrieved party himself "does not have an opportunity to demand a refutation"; but this does not apply to the case in point.

The government member's writ makes an unprecedented demand of the court—to prohibit Vyzhutovich appearing in IZVESTIYA altogether pending publication of a refutation. Leaving aside the fact that the court can decline to obligate the editorial office even to carry a refutation, we still must wait to see what conclusion it will reach. But the absurdity of this condition is glaringly obvious if the situation is viewed from the opposite perspective: Someone has brought an action against B. Mironov and is demanding that he not be allowed to carry out his state duties until the case is heard in court, however long that may take.

I would not wish to rebuke B. Mironov for these legal absurdities: In the final analysis ignorance of the law is not just the preserve of ministers and writers in this country. Although, on the other hand, Mironov is in this respect in a privileged position: There is an entire legal administration within the State Committee for the Press, and I am sure there is somebody there competent enough to tell his chief what's what. But, evidently, nobody approached the legal specialists. Otherwise the writ would never have named the newspaper's chief editor personally as the defendant, as this too is not stipulated by the law.

Nor did Boris Sergeyevich like the picture accompanying the article. In his opinion, "the negative has been printed," and the minister prefers to see himself "photographed in a business situation." Clearly, with a telephone in one hand and a pen in the other. However, the very fact of his refuting the picture is something completely new in jurisprudence.

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Every time you pick up such a document the first thing you do is look at the end—what value did the plaintiff put on his outraged honor and dignity? On this occasion I read the following: "To exact from the defendants in favor of Mr. B.S. Mironov a sum equivalent to $1,000,000 (one million U.S. dollars) at the rate of exchange for the moral damage incurred."

Probably in order that the minister not be suspected of a strictly commercial goal in bringing this suit, the writ specified how he intends to use the prospective million dollars. To be more accurate, the fate of only 20 percent of it was specified—it will go to his attorneys. What happens to the remainder has only been outlined. For example, the Nakhimov Military School will receive: percent (with just such a blank space alongside). Two more large blank spaces are intended for the insertion of other objects of the minister's benefaction and the extent of the same.

All this is not just curious but to a certain degree flattering. Because a member of the government is in litigation with us for the first time, which in itself is fairly prestigious (though we have had and still do have fairly "distinguished" plaintiffs: A. Rutskoy, A. Makashov, and V. Zhirinovskiy). On the the other hand, whatever the lawsuit's outcome, our money will go to good causes. If, of course, the appropriate blanks are filled in conscientiously.

Economic Issues

Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin Discuss Economic Problems

LD2607134294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1308 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Moscow July 26 ITAR-TASS—Today's meeting between Russian President Boris Yeltsin and the country's Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin, a regular Tuesday meeting of the Russian federation's top leaders, was devoted to aspects of the Russian national economy.

The president's Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov told ITAR- TASS that the president and the prime minister discussed the main guidelines for the mid-term economic programme for 1995-1997 "in light of the newly developed concept of advancing reforms". They also coordinated instructions to be issued to the working group which is preparing a new package of the president's economic decrees.

Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin discussed the funding of the defence sector and a fuller use of its production facilities. This exchange of views was particularly important on the eve of the two leaders's trip to the country's provinces. The president leaves on Wednesday for Krasnoyarsk, a major industrial centre in eastern Siberia whose industrial enterprises are closely linked to the defence sector, while the prime minister is due to visit Penza in central European Russia to look into the situation of its industrial enterprises which, until recently, worked mainly for defence. The troubles these cities are now facing are typical of today's Russia.

Further on Economic Talks

LD2607191594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1853 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin held a regular weekly working meeting today. This time they focused on economic issues. Yeltsin's Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov said that the president and the premier had discussed the guidelines for the economic program for 1995-1997 within the scope of the concept for speeding up the reforms which is now being worked on.

Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin coordinated their instructions to the working group which must draft one more package of presidential economic decrees. They also considered the issue of support for the defense industry and utilization of its industrial capacity. Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin said they realized the necessity to find resources in order to support this vital branch of the Russian economy. They also discussed preparations for harvesting work and personnel issues.

Communist Party Appeals Against Privatization

MM2607120194 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 1

[Statement by Russian Federation Communist Party: "Protecting National Property"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Communist Party has frequently warned working people of the pernicious consequences of predatory privatization. Today these consequences are here. But not everyone has yet understood that the destruction of social production which is under way is the direct result of the destruction of public property. It is especially important to understand this on the eve of the so-called second round of privatization—the selling off of the remains of state and municipal property announced by B. Yeltsin's edict counter to the position of the State Duma.

The Russian Federation Communist Party Central Executive Committee appeals to workers, engineers, employees, and leaders of industrial and agricultural enterprises, and local organs of power to protect public property from plunder by the criminal-comprador capital and thus save Russian production from definitive collapse and the country from the establishment of an authoritarian dictatorship.

This can still be done by creating a broad movement of civil resistance to the sale of state and municipal enterprises. Their labor collectives must be prepared for the most resolute actions of protest against such privatization and for the transfer of these enterprises to the

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control of workers' and strike committees. A self-managed public enterprise—that is a real alternative to private capitalist ownership. Such actions are justified and completely legal because neither the people nor the Federal Assembly has delegated to anyone the right to dispose of the nation's wealth.

The Communist deputies have already brought an action in the Constitutional Court for the recognition of B. Yeltsin's edict as unconstitutional. Meanwhile we have a positive program expressed in the draft law "on emergency measures for emerging from the economic crisis and preventing a national catastrophe." It is now up to the working people's initiative and drive.

Citizens of Russia! The time has come when each person must be aware of the terrible threat looming over the Fatherland and must choose with whom he will go—with the patriots or with those who are prepared to sell off Russia and its national wealth.

Adopted by the Russian Federation Communist Party Central Executive Committee plenum and the "Russian Federation Communist Party" faction in the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma 23 July 1994.

Price Moves for Regulated, Nonregulated Goods Compared

MM2607144794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Irina Goryacheva of the Russian Federation Government Center for Economic Conditions: "Free Prices Rise Faster"]

[Text] Price regulation at local level was implemented across practically the entire list of monitored foodstuffs and on certain types of nonfood goods.

By the end of June the number of cities where the regional administrations were influencing price formation had fallen somewhat. The scale of price regulation also decreased in terms of both the number of products with regulated prices and the list of monitored cities where these processes were recorded.

Traditional methods of influencing price levels were also employed. The main method was through the restriction of the size of the markup by trading organizations (65 percent of the total volume of price regulation). Profitability standards for enterprises in the food industry were used much more rarely (6 percent). As before, these forms of regulation were applied simultaneously to many products (18 percent). In certain cases, subsidies were paid from local budget funds for these purposes (3 percent) and a maximum price level was set (1 percent).

By the end of the second quarter the increase in regulated prices for products was somewhat less than for products sold at free prices—12.1 percent and 14.6 percent respectively. Overall (excluding the effect of the seasonal factor on fruit and vegetable produce), the cost of food produce in the stores increased by 13.7 percent.

The prices for products sold at free prices are going up more rapidly for 42 of the 57 monitored items. Thus vegetables sold at free prices went up by 53 percent, while those sold at fixed prices increased by only 24 percent. The difference between the pace of change of free and regulated prices for top grade wheat bread, milk, and pasta was between 14 and 18 percentage points. For instance, the cost of milk sold at free prices increased by 20.6 percent, and that of milk sold at regulated prices by 5.6 percent.

In some economic regions local administrations continued the practice of restraining the prices of a number of nonfood goods. The main method of regulating prices for nonfood goods, by contrast with foodstuffs, was to subsidize them from local budgets, while another less widespread method was to restrict the profit level or retail markup. Local administrations usually influenced the pace of change of prices for socially significant goods—fuel, medicine, matches, children's clothes, and footwear. The most commonly regulated prices out of the list of monitored goods were those of fuel—coal, timber, and peat briquettes. In over 50 percent of monitored cities, prices for certain types of fuel were significantly lower than the average for Russia.

the Second Quarter of 1994 (As Percentage of the Previous Month)	Foodstuffs for Which Prices Are Regulated	Foodstuffs for Which Prices Are Not Regulated
April	5 percent	6 percent
May	5 percent	8 percent
June	3 percent	5 percent

Property Levies Consolidated in Review of Tax Code

MM2607140394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jul 94 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Taxes—Knout or Brake?"]

[Text] The Russian Federation Ministry of Finance is drafting the Russian Federation Tax Code. This document should include the main provisions of the Law on the Fundamentals of the Tax System in Russia, which has been in force since 1 January 1992, Anna Salina, chief of the property taxes section of the Russian Federation Finance Ministry tax reform department, told a BIZNES-TASS correspondent.

The section chief noted that 44 different taxes are currently levied in the country under existing legislation, including 16 federal taxes, five taxes levied by the republics within the Russian Federation and the krays and oblasts, and 23 local taxes. However, this large number of taxes does not mean that the tax burden is heavy. Taxation as a proportion of GNP today equals 45

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percent. In this direct taxes and payments into the budget stand at around 14 percent and indirect taxes at around 12 percent, while payments from extrabudgetary funds stand at 15 percent and other revenue and levies at above 3 percent. In developed countries the level of taxation as a percentage of GNP fluctuates between 33 and 55 percent.

Radical changes are to made to the tax system connected with the provisions of the Russian Federation Constitution that federal taxes and levies are liable to examination and adoption at federal level. As for the Russian Federation components, general principles for taxes and levies in Russia are to be established for them in line with the Constitution. In addition, local self-government bodies will independently establish local taxes and levies.

In accordance with recent Russian Federation presidential edicts it is proposed to shift the center of gravity to property taxation with simultaneous reduction of the tax rates on profits and in value-added tax.

Anna Salina indicated that a draft Russian Federation law "On a Tax on Real Estate" has been submitted for government examination. The draft proposes to establish a uniform tax on real estate for both corporations and individuals. The new uniform tax is planned to replace the existing tax on enterprises' property, the tax on individuals' property, and the land levy.

Law Obliges Government To Draft 1995 Budget by 1 Oct

LD2607142294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1328 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—The bitter fact that the 1994 federal budget was adopted only in the middle of the year, has made Russian legislators draw up a special law on considering and passing the 1995 budget.

The State Duma (Russian parliament's lower house) approved it on July 20, and today the Federation Council (the upper chamber) followed suit.

In accordance with the law, the government is obliged to submit a draft budget for 1995 to the State Duma before October 1, 1994.

Service Reports Monthly Inflation Running Low

LD2607130194 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpt] Inflation in Russia is running relatively low this month. The statistics service reports prices rose to just 1.2 percent over the past week. Specialists note that the slowing down of inflation is due to a sufficiently tough monetary policy pursued by the government, but what arouses concern is that this is happening against the background of falling production. [passage omitted]

FCS Trade Union Signs Collective Agreement with Management

MK2707122994 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 27 Jul 94 p 2

[Andrey Nikolayev report in the "Free Labor" column: "The Cheka Trade Union Comes to Terms with the Counter-intelligence Management. The FCS Suit Will Be Followed by the Foreign Intelligence Service, FAPSI, the Presidential Security Service, and Others"]

[Text] Aleksandr Strelkov, deputy director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS]; and Yuriy Syreyshchikov, chairman of the republican committee of the Russian FCS trade union organizations, have signed a collective agreement "with a view to regulating relations between the trade union and management," coordinating mutual actions in implementing laws, and "protecting the economic and social interests of the civilian personnel."

Under the agreement, the FCS leadership, as employer, recognizes the trade union as the sole representative of its employees, with the right independently to prepare proposals on addressing matters requiring intervention by the Russian Government, and, in preparing departmental orders and other documents affecting the interests of the civilian personnel, to make the requisite comments. All matters related to changing the FCS structure, its reorganization, and downsizing, will also be considered by the service's management with direct participation by the trade union and subdivision management, and with the mandatory participation of trade union committee representatives. Prior to a personnel reduction order being issued, the employer undertakes to submit to the trade union a list of posts to be cut, a list of employees to be discharged, a list of vacant posts available, and proposed job placement options.

The sides also agreed that the trade union will participate, jointly with the FCS Central Technical, Energy and Labor Protection Oversight Inspectorate, in inspecting the state of labor protection in counterintelligence bodies, and that it can also independently conduct random checks, including checks relating to the provision of employees with special apparel, footwear, and individual protection equipment.

For its part the FCS leadership "will seek to take measures to increase compensation payments for meals to civilian personnel up to the size of minimum wages. Furthermore, the leadership undertakes to provide medical assistance through FCS military-medical facilities to pensioners from among civilian personnel currently not working for the FCS, but having a record of work in this department of 20 years (for women) and 25 years (for men).

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Yuriy Syreyshchikov believes that the social protection of FCS personnel envisioned under the agreement will be conducive to consolidating labor discipline and enhancing performance by all employees. According to Syreyshchikov, the trade unions of other special services and organizations have decided to follow the example of the counterintelligence trade union. Therefore at present the Russian Federation Foreign Intelligence Service, the Federal Agency for Government Communication and Information under the Russian Federation president (FAPSI), the Federal Government Service-the Main Command of the Russian Federation Border Troops, the Main Security Directorate under the Russian Federation president, and the Special Installations Service under the Russian Federation President, jointly with the FCS, have prepared a branch (tariff) agreement called upon "to regulate the relations between the trade unions and management" of these departments.

First Aircraft Production Corporation Established

LD2607125494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1044 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The Ilyushin design bureau and Voronezh aircraft- building joint-stock company have established Russia's first aircraft-building corporation which is expected to shorten test and serial production of aircraft, and set the stage for the centralized sale of aircraft and their subsequent technical maintenance.

General Designer of the Ilyushin complex Genrikh Novozhilov told Interfax that the corporation was set up in accordance with the presidential decree of July 21 which provides for the unification of Russia's largest designers and producers of aviation equipment.

The new corporation will produce modern and competitive air liners, including the IL-96-300 with PS-90 Russian engines, and its IL-96M and IL-96T modifications with Pratt & Whitney engines, and Rockwell and Collins electrical and electronics equipment, said Novozhilov. He also announced that IL-96-300 liners were already being produced in Voronezh and that the first IL-96T cargo plane would be put into service at the end of 1995, with a passenger plane to follow in 1996.

He said that both modifications consumed 1.3 times less fuel than the currently used IL-62 and 1.5 times less fuel than the IL-86.

Il-96T's and IL-96M's will meet the Russian and American flight standards. By the year 2000, 24 IL-96 liners of various modifications are to be put out, said Novozhilov. The production process will involve more than 20 American and German companies which have already invested more than $140 million in the project.

In addition, Pratt & Whitney plans to invest $250 million in the program to improve the Russian PS-90A engine and its modifications, which are to be used in the gas industry and at electric power plants.

Industry specialists said the establishment of a powerful aviation corporation in Russia reflects a new tendency in financing and military conversion—the establishment of financial and industrial groups.

Military & Space Issues

Lack of Funds Delays Scrapping of Nuclear Submarines

MM2607154394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Viktor Litovkin: "Defunct Submarines Still Waiting To Perish in Smelting Furnaces"]

[Text] Severodvinsk-Severomorsk—These pictures were taken at Severodvinsk's "Zvezdochka" Ship Repair Yard, where eight once menacing strategic nuclear submarines, known in the West as "Yankee Class" and here as project 667 A or "Navaga," which have long been defunct and earmarked for recycling and smelting down, are waiting to be recycled. On one of them you can even see in section the missile silos, an enormous brass propeller, the ribs of its strong hull, and the ladders and pipes of its main passageways.

The first of 30 such submarines went into service in 1963 and the last in 1974. They were built right here, in Severodvinsk, but at the neighboring "Sevmashpredpriyatiye" yard, as well as in Komsomolsk-na-Amure. Now all this is in the past. The submarines are both obsolete and worn-out. Under the SALT I Treaty they were destined to have but one fate—to be broken up and recycled. But, alas, by no means immediately. As Commander of the Northern Fleet Admiral Oleg Yerofeyev told me, there are no funds at all to recycle former nuclear submarines (and more than 60 of them have been withdrawn from the Navy).

Moreover, in only 16 of the nuclear submarines which have been laid up has the spent nuclear fuel been unloaded from the reactors. The remainder have been "mothballed" at their moorages and are waiting for the country and, of course, the Navy to come up with the real money and technology to carry out this serious and in every respect unsafe operation.

However, to say that they have been "mothballed" is exaggerating. In fact the submarines, whose crews have to all intents and purposes been transferred, live on, though only just. They are provided with electricity, fresh water, high-pressure air, and in the winter—which lasts 10 months in the polar region—steam. Almost 2,000 seamen and officers registered on fighting ships service the "semi-defunct" vessels, guard them, ensure that they do not sink, and maintain the safety of their nuclear reactors. This has to happen, because if, God forbid, one of these rusty submarines filled with radioactive materials goes to the bottom, the whole of the Kola Peninsula and the gulfs, seas, cities, and settlements

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adjoining it, together with fisheries and ports, will be at the epicenter of an ecological disaster.

Servicing and monitoring these craft cost the Navy a sizable sum—1 billion rubles [R] at 1991 prices—though nobody is setting aside money specially for this. Money is being spent on this at the expense of combat training, repairing fighting ships, building housing for officers' families, and other items of expenditure which are extremely necessary to seamen.

The admiral reported: The Navy is ready to remove its dangerous nuclear waste for reprocessing at plants in as short a period of time as possible, but, unfortunately, only four trains a year are provided for it, and each one costs the seamen R2 billion.

True, the Navy could earn the money to get rid of the liquid and solid nuclear waste. Each nuclear submarine which has been laid up contains tonnes of high-quality steel (cut into sheets it would fill two full railroad trains), 300 tonnes of rubber, hundreds of kilograms of precious metals—platinum, gold, and silver, and rare-earth elements like cadmium—not to mention things which can still be used in the national economy like unique pumps, fans, instruments, and apparatus. Many problems would be solved if submarines were dismantled, cut up, and sold at our own ship repair yards—a tonne of "ferrous" metal fetches $40-60 on the world market, and a tonne of "white," that is processed, sorted metal, fetches $400-700—but.... This is impossible.

But shipbuilding yards can do this. In accordance with a government decision, the Northern Fleet seamen have to hand over 12 submarines this year to them without compensation. Those selfsame submarines which they for years sailed out into the ocean and underneath the ice floes of the North Pole, from which they fired missiles at firing ranges, which they later guarded and protected from accidents and sabotage, and on which they spent their own money.

I was told at the Northern Fleet that under the prevailing circumstances, the 100 or so nuclear submarines will have to wait many, many years to get rid of their spent nuclear fuel and reach their final hour in the open-hearth smelting furnaces. But come what may, we will have to put up with these troublesome ships' graveyards containing nuclear materials.

Admiral Gromov Views Naval Readiness on 'Navy Day'

LD2707142394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1204 GMT 27 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow July 27 TASS—Russia's new ship for acting in the ocean zone is now in the works. It is not nuclear-powered but quite reliable, and, most importantly, equipped with an economical power plant and weapons which will mark a step forward as compared to the arms aboard "Peter the Great". It is also a step forward in technology. Russian shipyards cannot build a ship like the aircraft-carrying "Admiral Kuznetsov". They are not ready to handle such volumes. They are working on a ship capable of carrying aircraft that can take off from a ramp, and with a smaller tonnage than regular aircraft-carriers, Russian Navy Commander-in-Chief Admiral Felix Gromov told ITAR-TASS.

Admiral Gromov said the Russian Navy is maintaining high combat readiness to protect Russia's sea borders firmly and dependably. At present, some 30 ships of various categories are out at sea, with several submarines under the Arctic ice.

"We are expressing the state policy and elements of Russia's military doctrine as well as performing the tasks set for the Navy, above all, the tasks of patrolling the strategic nuclear forces at sea, as well as the general-purpose forces. These tasks are being accomplished according to plan and with good quality," the admiral said.

The commander said the participation of the Navy in the protection of the country's economic interests is no less important, particularly where regular navigation and fishing are concerned. Navy ships took part, together with coast guard and border guard troops, in combatting foreign poacher fleets in the Far East and the Caspian Sea.

The Navy, like no other arm of the country's armed forces, is able to represent the interests of the state in any other region. This year the destroyer ship "Nastoichivy" was invited to take part in the festivities in France devoted to the opening of the second front. Russian ships visited also other ports and took part in joint exercises.

The commander said the Russian Navy will continue to preserve technology and ships capable of meeting modern requirement and to develop surface and submarine vessels for the 21 century. This is a difficult task at present but "our economy will not remain in this lamentable state forever, it will begin to grow". Russia must have balanced forces in the submarine and surface fleets capable of plying ocean waters, he said.

As concerns difficulties facing the Navy, the admiral pointed to problems of financing in the first place. He said that cuts in the military budget have resulted in "catastrophic shortages of resources needed to pay for the fuel, electricity and water, to say nothing about difficulties which arise in maintaining the Navy's combat readiness, equipment, arms and ships".

The seamen are motivated solely by enthusiasm and their love for the homeland and the Navy in their efforts to keep their combat readiness at an appropriate level, the admiral said.

Admiral Felix Gromov congratulated the seamen, Navy veterans and all Russian people on Navy Day and

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stressed that it has always been a popular holiday, and the Navy has always felt people's affection.

Pro-Yeltsin Paratroop Officers Victimized

MM2607164394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Igor Chernyak: "Russian President's Paratroopers Cast on the Scrap Heap of History"]

[Text] The fate of the participants in the events of 3-4 October [1993] and the storming of the "White House" is rather curious. Whereas Grachev, Yerin, Kobets, Barynkin, and other military commanders with large stars on their shoulderboards continue for the time being to sit in their offices, the direct executants of their orders, who have fewer stars, have begun to feel certain changes. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA has in its possession a document making it possible to trace this tendency in the example of the 119th Guards Paratroop Regiment of the Russian Airborne Troops 106th Guards Paratroop Division.

As is well known, this regiment took the most active part in the October events, what is more, taking Boris Yeltsin's side and storming the parliament building. Soldiers and officers of the regiment killed many defenders of the "White House," but also suffered losses themselves. As a result the commander and his deputy were awarded the title of "Hero of Russia," and five others were awarded the title posthumously. Lieutenant Colonel N. Belyakov, deputy commander of the regiment, was recommended for the hero's title posthumously, as they thought (he was grievously wounded—a deep wound to the head), but survived.

After the awards had been presented to those who had especially distinguished themselves in the storming, not one line appeared about the "October heroes"—even in KRASNAYA ZVEZDA. The way that journalists ignored them is somewhat reminiscent of the treatment of lepers. Did they expect the reverse? Probably neither yes nor no. They simply conscientiously obeyed their orders. (In an old war movie enemy soldiers justify themselves by saying: "The commanders are entirely to blame. We were only obeying orders.") An army in which subordinates start to discuss the commanders' decisions is no longer an army.

Be that as it may, they nevertheless might have expected the reverse. But what happened was different. For their actions many in the army, it must be admitted, call them scum. A peculiar atmosphere—let us put it like that—will develop around the families of many of them, like the servicemen from the Taman and Kantemir divisions who participated in the storming. The attitude to the "October heroes" on the part of the Ministry of Defense apparatus, the General Staff, and the commands of the combat arms and branches of service will also become cool, to put it mildly. It would appear that the rank-and-file executants of orders will have to bear their cross to the end.

The authors of the document which has come into KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's possession warn the "top brass": Today Regimental Commander Colonel Nikolay Ignatov (38), Hero of Russia, holder of the order "For Personal Bravery," his deputy Lt. Col. Nikolay Belyayev (36), Hero of Russia, holder of the Orders of the Combat Red Banner and the Red Star, and Lt. Col. Leonid Anton (37, "an active participant in the events"), deputy regimental rear services commander and holder of the medal "For Combat Services," have been removed from their posts and placed "at the disposal of the Airborne Troops commander." Chief of Staff Col. Oleg Golotsupov (40, refused to carry out the orders of Achalov's deputy and did not stop a regimental column en route for Moscow), holder of the Order of the Red Star, has been dismissed from his post and demoted to the position of instructor at the Ryazan Airborne Troops School. Lt. Col. Mikhail Korkin (38, "an active participant in the events"), deputy regimental commander for work with personnel, has been removed from his post and demoted to deputy commander of a separate battalion, or, to put it more simply, deputy chief of a sanatorium in Sochi. Lt. Col. Aleksandr Shvetsov (42), deputy regimental commander for weapons, has been discharged into the reserve. Of the 119th regiment's three battalion commanders, two have been sent away from the unit: one to a military academy, the other to the civil defense troops. The numerous commissions that constantly arrive in the regiment invariably find shortcomings there in the state of military discipline and so forth.

The authors of the document believe that the aim of the whole "show" currently under way in the 119th Guards Paratroop Regiment and organized, in their opinion, by the president's opponents (covert and open), is "to entirely replace the regiment's commanding officers, so as, if need be, to prevent the regiment from acting on the president's side in the future." It is also suggested that personal scores are being settled with the regiment's commanding officers, and that on the propaganda plane the regiment is being used as an example "to show all the Armed Forces that those who defend the president at a difficult moment are doomed to persecution and will be offered no help in restoring justice from the authorities whom they defended." It is proposed that those responsible for all this be found and punished and that the regiment be placed under constant monitoring from now on, and that "this example be discussed in units and combined formations of the Russian Armed Forces with a view to reinforcing the personnel's faith in the Russian Federation president and curbing defeatist attitudes."

But there is another theory about the changes in the 119th regiment. Despite the fact that you would think that the country should know its heroes, the names of the most active participants in the storming of the "White House" are not being publicized. All the same, they have become known, after which representatives of various political forces began to show a persistent interest in the regiment and its commanders. Friends and relatives of

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those who were killed visited it too. So that the heroes of October should not be insulted and morally humiliated by ideological opponents and other Russians whom they saved, the senior commanders decided to scatter the guardsmen around the country. This process has quietly begun—also without special publicity.

Perhaps it is for the better.

Cosmonauts Conduct Research Aboard Mir Station

LD2607141594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1329 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Mission Control Centre July 26 TASS—The crew of the 16th space expedition continue working on board the Mir orbital station.

In full accordance with the programme of astrophysical research, they got down on Tuesday to another series of experiments with the use of telescopes of the roentgen international orbital observatory. The observatory, which was created by Russian experts jointly with those from some European countries, has been functioning successfully for seven years already. Three sets of observations are to be carried out on Tuesday, with a roentgen radiation source in the central zone of our galaxy chosen as an object of observation.

During the day, the flight commander and engineer will also undergo a series of control medical checks-up.

According to reports from the cosmonauts, the flight is continuing in full accordance with the scheduled programme. Yuriy Malenchenko, Talgat Musabayev and Valeriy Polyakov are in good health condition.

Report on Soviet Space Flights

LD2607145494 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Jul 94

[Report by correspondent Slipchenko; from the "Sunday" program]

[Text] There is a unique place at the Baykonur cosmodrome. It is a burial ground for one rocket. The rocket was called N-1, a rocket that was made so that a Soviet man could land on the moon. The rocket took off thrice and in the end here are its remains. Not once did this rocket get off into space.

[Begin recording of voice over black and white shots of a rocket launch, with parts of the rocket being shown] These are shots from a completely secret newsreel. A lot is being written about this now, but it is better to see it.

The start of the Soviet rocket N-1. To understand what it looked like just imagine: The lower diameter was 14 meters, the first stage has 32 engines, and the fuel reservoirs are the size of a small house.

And what did the American one look like? Saturn with a huge inscription: USA. The results are common knowledge. By the way, do you know how many times the Americans went to the moon? Six times. Twelve Americans, the crews of space ships, promenaded, walked on the moon.

Here, in the USSR, 15 modules for a moon landing were made using industrial technologies. But there was a drawback: There was no reliable rocket. Hundreds of thousands, millions of people worked on the program and it was a closed one. Everything that science developed, composite materials, new metals, all remained a secret for 22 years. Today's situation is not much different from our history. Just a year ago the Buran program was turned into a closed one. Just imagine, 1200 design offices, plants and research institutes worked on Buran and Energiya, and there were also metallurgists who made special metals, glass blowers who made special glass, all these were fantastic technologies. Take the system of automatic landing alone. If it had been applied to aircraft it would have eliminated the question of flight weather for people, for passengers. But once again, nobody wanted to take this up.

It is said that one cannot use a Russian car for long, because it does not go, it does not start up. The technologies used for building it are prehistoric, introduced by the Wright brothers. Whereas the Americans got a $4 profit for every dollar sunk into the moon program. Do you remember the velcro fasteners for clothes that the whole world is using? They come from the American Moon program.

What have we got out of the Buran program?—Nothing. Whereas the lacquers, paints, and heat-resistant materials in that program were the best in the world. The Shuttle has to have almost half of its shielding tiles changed after landing, while with the Buran it is only nine tiles. One can cite many instances, but what is the use? The space program Buran-Energiya was turned into a closed one a year ago.

We had a powerful national manned space program. A huge, brilliant manned station is flying in space, which [word indistinct] the whole world. The military are still managing to assemble rockets, one out of two. As no orders for spaceships have been placed with the industry, there will be nothing to fly in. So we will give the automatic docking system to the Americans, the life support system, which the Shuttle does not have, we will also give away, and will close down the program. And will close down all science in the country? [end recording]

Previously it was just interesting. Now it has become symbolic, symbolic, because that [word indistinct] program which is being implemented in Russia may have the same fate as that rocket.

Everything that has been developed for space flights, and for the moon program, and for Buran—and at present

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there are three cosmonauts working in space—everything can be used in normal everyday life. People are waiting for us to understand that. [Video shows the broken remnants of the first Russian rocket; shots of its launching and the rocket in the launching pad; the launching of the American Saturn; American astronauts on the moon; unidentified piece of equipment; torn and twisted metal fragments of a wreckage; the Buran spaceship in launching pad; aircraft taking off and landing; more American astronauts on the moon; a plane in a workshop; a space complex in flight; shots of a launching site]

Federal Assembly

Federation Council Approves State of Emergency Extension

LD2707101994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1010 GMT 27 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, July 27 (TASS)—The upper chamber of the Russian federal legislature today approved the presidential decree dated July 25 on the state of emergency on part of the territory of the Republic of North Ossetia and the Ingush Republic.

The decree extended yet again the state of emergency on the territory ravaged by an ethnic conflict, this time until September 30, as the earlier set deadline is due to expire on July 31.

The two-hour debates in the federation council took place behind closed doors. Itar-tass learned however that the resolution of the upper chamber calls on the president to take to account the officials responsible for the failure to fulfill the earlier decree.

The debates in the federation council revealed that "the positive component of consideration of the problem in the parliament has increased considerably and that the deputies are now better aware of the entire complexity of the problem," according to Aleksandr Yakovlev who represents the Russian president in the federal assembly.

Aleksandr Yakovlev pointed to "the achievement of a clear accord between the presidents of the Republics of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, who have to shoulder the main burden of the issue". Yakovlev said this encourages hope. The positive shifts have enabled the parliament to resolve the problem by about one quarter, Yakovlev said.

However, he warned against resting on the laurels because "if the failure to solve the problem becomes permanent, this can lead to negative results".

Itar-Tass has received word that the federation council's defence and security committee recommended that the chamber accelerate the setting up of a standing observer commission to strengthen control over the fulfilment of a stage-by-stage plan for the return and settlement of refugees and displaced persons in the residential areas indicated in the presidential decree, and for guaranteeing their security and safety.

Rybkin Summarizes Results of 1st State Duma Session

LD2607115694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1124 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—The pessimistic forecasts of skeptics who predicted "complete infertility" of the State Duma, the lower house of the Russian federal legislature, have proved false, Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin told a press conference here today. "The Duma opted for cooperation with the president and the government in handling the country's main problem - helping Russia pull out of the crisis," Rybkin stressed.

The lower house chief noted that the majority in parliament was set to work actively in law making. "Those who wanted to turn the chamber into a permanent public meeting have found themselves in a minority," Rybkin said.

Summing up the results of the first session of the State Duma, Rybkin particularly stressed a number of laws it adopted, including the law on the Constitutional Court and the first part of the civil code. "We became convinced that we can reach accord when we passed constitutional laws by a two-thirds majority," Rybkin stressed.

The Duma chairman also dwelled on mistakes and shortfalls in the Duma's activity. He said one of these was that the house "was not quite right" in its assessment of the government programme of the second stage of privatisation. As concerns the alternative versions of the privatisation programme put forth by the Communists and Liberal Democrats in parliament, he described them as "a set of outdated slogans".

Rybkin made clear that he viewed with equanimity the president's decree on the further sale of state and municipal property which will be in effect until the Duma passes a law, which is now being deliberated in the house committees and commissions and is due to be finalised in autumn, in time for the opening of the chamber's second session.

"Political vociferation is dangerous," Rybkin said about the pronouncements of some politicians about forthcoming deep social upheaval in the country in autumn this year. "No one denies that the situation is serious, but some people are trying to influence the situation in a positive manner, while some others are acting in keeping with the principle "the worse the better", Rybkin said.

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The Duma leader said that the house had "burst into international inter-parliamentary relations". "I hope that my upcoming meeting with the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of Ukraine will permit us to review all of the problems of Russian-Ukrainian relations", he said.

Rybkin also announced that Russia has enough political and economic levers in order to protect Russians residing abroad. He supported Boris Yeltsin's decision concerning the deadline for the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia. "We must show patience and tolerance in solving these complex problems," Rybkin said. He warned the West against double standards in tackling human rights issues.

Rybkin praised the activity of the Russian delegation to the G-7 summit in Naples. "Boris Yeltsin's speeches at the summit were worthy of Russia," he stressed.

Rybkin denied press reports about his possible official visit to Cuba. "I know nothing about this, but I will think about it,"—he reported.

Rybkin Speaks at Session

MM2607152594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jul 94 First Edition pp 1,3

[Unattributed account of speech by State Duma chairman Ivan Rybkin at final session on 22 July 1994: "Ivan Rybkin: State Duma Chooses Difficult Path of Businesslike Cooperation"]

[Text] Esteemed colleagues! Allow me, in connection with the end of the first session of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, to talk about a few of the results.

After the parliamentary elections on 12 December last year and right up to the election of leading organs of the State Duma, the press and certain sections of the public were pushing the theory that the newly elected legislative assembly would not only not help rectify the situation in the country, but would seriously destabilize the sociopolitical situation in Russia.

Today all responsible politicians must admit that this deliberately pessimistic forecast has not been borne out. Generally speaking, the State Duma chose a different path for itself—the difficult path of businesslike cooperation and collaboration with all the power structures, with emphasis on the task of getting the country out of the deep social crisis.

On 23 February the State Duma adopted a Memorandum of Accord and an amnesty decree, the purpose of which was to overcome the bitter confrontation between different social groups. The "Treaty on Social Accord," initiated by the State Duma and supported by the Russian president, also played an important part in this process. Making this choice was not easy for the State Duma, given the multifarious political interests and views brought into parliament by the party factions and independent deputies. But, as they say, "God helps those who seek to do good." The wide variety of political forces in the State Duma, genuinely concerned about the future of Russia and of democracy in our country, prompted the majority of them to focus on creative, productive work and renounce enervating, fruitless party squabbles.

There are those who assess our work in terms of the number of entire laws adopted and fail to take into account the large number of draft laws that have been through the elaboration stage and are now ready to be adopted at some stage of reading. While a large part of the legislators' time is spent not on "voting," but on work on the draft law.

The legislative backup for the reform of Russian society presupposes as a preliminary condition the thorough and comprehensive interpretation of the processes taking place in the country and identification of the mnain contradictions and trends of social development. Therefore, analytical work represented an important part of the State Duma's activities.

For the purposes of providing legislative backup for the current course of reforms and, at the same time, for the stabilization of the social situation, the State Duma recognized the following priority areas of activity:

encouraging economic reforms and providing social protection for Russians;

improving the state system and widening citizens' rights and freedoms;

regulating various aspects of individual, social, and state security;

supporting the spiritual sphere of Russian society.

The adoption of the budget for 1994 can be regarded as a definite success for the State Duma. For the first time in recent years the legislative assembly was able to draw up the country's budget and get finances under the countrol of the representatives of the people.

The law on the Russian Federation Constitutional Court, which society badly needed, was prepared and adopted. The president has already signed this law. A state institution, which, through its activities, will help every organ of power to operate within the framework of the powers specified by the Constitution, has been "commissioned." The draft Russian Federation Arbitration Procedure Code was adopted on first reading.

Basically the State Duma has gotten to the point where the end of work on the body of basic legislative codes is in sight.

The draft law "On part one of the Russian Federation Civil Code" was adopted on second reading.

Work has been completed on the Criminal Code, Land Code, and Water Code, and they are ready to be examined.

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The Criminal Procedure and Administrative Codes, the Air Code, and the Code of Laws on Labor are in the final stages of elaboration. The idea has been adopted of a law on basic guarantees for Russian Federation citizens' electoral rights.

The introduction of the aforementioned codes will be an enormous step forward in the development of a rule-of-law state and civil society in Russia.

As of 22 July 1994 the State Duma Council and the State Duma had examined a total of 220 draft laws, of which 27 were submitted by the Russian Federation president, six by members of the Federation Council, 146 by State Duma deputies, 34 by the Russian Federation government; three by components of the Federation; one by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court; one by the Russian Federation Supreme Court, and two by the Russian Federation Supreme Arbitration Court.

During the session the State Duma adopted 46 laws; 41 draft laws were adopted on first reading and three on second reading; 15 were examined but were not adopted. Out of 46 laws, 11 were signed by the Russian Federation president and 10 were published; three were approved by the Federation Council and sent to the Russian Federation president; three were turned down by the Federation Council (two of them were adopted second time round by the State Duma); six were sent for the Federation Council to examine; 24 are being evaluated by the State Duma apparatus legal administration.

The parliamentary hearings in the State Duma made a large, in fact an unexpectedly large impact. There were more than 60, on the widest variety of socioeconomic, political, and humanitarian issues.

The State Duma was quick to embark on intensive interparliamentary relations with legislative (representative) organs in the countries of the CIS, Europe, Asia, and America.

At the same time, a comparative analysis of acute Russian problems and of the State Duma decisions shows that there have been omissions in its work. In a number of imporant areas of public life the chamber failed to provide prompt replies to the challenges of the difficult transitional period. For instance, having failed to approve the Russian Federation president's edict "On urgent measures to protect the population against banditry and other manifestations of organized crime" (because of certain unconstitutional provisions), the State Duma delayed preparation of the law on organized crime. Having rejected the draft federal law "On the adoption of the state program for the privatization of state and municipal enterprises in the Russian Federation after 1 July 1994," prepared by the State Property Committee, the Duma did not present its own consolidated program for the second stage of privatization. One could cite other examples of inefficiency on the part of our chamber.

Esteemed colleagues! Our work has been difficult, yet fruitful during these 193 days. The situation has gotten difficult in this chamber on occasions, but it can confidently be said today that when faced with the choice between "rallies" and work on laws we opted for work, and when faced with the choice between mutual recriminations and cooperation we opted for cooperation, and the results of our labor were substantial.

The parliamentary recess will soon be upon us. The deputies will be spending a whole week working in their districts, which will mean no premature relaxation. I must inform you that the State Duma Council will be working in the proper way. You have received the report on the Duma's activities. I trust you will pass it on in full to the voters.

In conclusion, allow me to thank you for your hard work and congratulate you on the completion of the important period of the formation of the Fifth State Duma and express the hope that at the next session we will work in such a way that the State Duma's authority will grow in accordance with its function.

Esteemed State Duma deputies and esteemed guests, I declare the first session of the Fifth State Duma closed.

Federation Council Approves Proposed Land Law Changes

LD2607130994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1222 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—The Federation Council of the Russian Federal Assembly, the upper house of the federal legislature of the Russian Federation, today approved changes to the law on payment for land proposed by the lower house, the State Duma.

Deputy chairman of the Federation Council's Committee for Agrarian Policy Vyacheslav Lyubimov, explained that the changes were necessitated by the need to fulfill the federal budget for this year by collecting revenue.

The amended law provides for higher land tax rates, fifty times those laid down in the 1991 law of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Federation (RSFSR). This change is in line with the federal budget for this year. Under the old law, the rate amounted to one kopeck per one square meter of land, while the new law sets the plank at not less than 10 roubles per one square meter of land used by individuals and legal persons in rural and urban areas. Now the individual users of plots of land measuring 0,1 hectare will pay five thousand roubles a year in rural areas and ten thousand roubles per annum in urban areas. Agricultural enterprises will have to pay from 550 to 4,950 roubles per every hectare of arable land, and legal persons in urban areas will pay from five to 225 roubles per one square meter of land. As concerns

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the industrial enterprises with facilities outside residential areas, they will have to pay from 50,000 to 100 thousand roubles per one hectare of land under their facilities.

The law provides for land tax exemption for recreation centres for children, state-owned enterprises operating waterways and hydrological structures, civil defence troops, heroes of the Soviet Union and the Russian Federation.

Committee Head Says Senate To Defy Yeltsin

MM2607132994 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 2

[Item from column of RIA and POSTFACTUM reports: "Federation Council Will Not Confirm Ilyushenko as General Prosecutor"]

[Text] The Federation Council will not confirm Aleksey Ilyushenko as general prosecutor when the president makes a second submission to that effect, Anatoliy Fedoseyev, deputy chairman of the Federation Council Committee for Constitutional Legislation and Judicial and Legal Issues, has stated. In his opinion, A. Ilyushenko has not given a good account of himself as general prosecutor, especially during the discussion of the president's anti-crime edict with regard to a number of paragraphs which contravene the Constitution.

Federation Council To Draw Up 26 Draft Laws in 1994

LD2607143994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1350 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—Deputies of the Federation Council (Russian parliament's upper house) map out to draw up 26 draft federal laws in the second half of the year.

The draft laws are included in a plan for legislative initiatives which the upper house adopted on Tuesday.

The upper house, as well as the lower house of Russian parliament, is entitled to take legislative initiatives. It maps out to draw up the following draft laws: on state structure; on the status of each republic and region of the russian federation; on procedures and order of fulfilling the federation treaty, etc.

The Council's deputies consider it necessary to draw up draft laws on the basic principles of holding elections to the federal bodies of power and local governments.

First Issue of State Duma Publication Reviewed

MM2607151994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Jul 94 First Edition p 2

[Unattributed report: "Parliament's Self-Analysis"]

[Text] The first issue of DUMSKIY VESTNIK [Duma Messenger]—the publication of the lower house of the Russian parliament—has come off the presses.

The VESTNIK reflects the diverse life of deputies in January through March of this year. What the reader will find in this informational compilation is Duma statistics, analytical material on the outcome of chamber sessions and parliamentary hearings, and reports on the State Duma's international links. One section is called "The Duma and the Press."

It is planned to feature in the compilation articles on sociological research into the country's most pressing problems, the work of the chambers of the Federal Assembly, and the popularity ratings of deputies. Letters and communications received by the State Duma will also find a lot of space on its pages, along with analytical and thematic surveys of the mass media.

Regional Affairs

Situation Remains Unclear in Chechnya

LD2707082794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0657 GMT 27 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Moscow, 27 Jul—The situation in Chechnya remains unclear. The North Caucasian republic keeps dispatching contradictory reports. According to unofficial information, the Shalinskiy tank regiment joined the antigovernment forces, but this was denied by the Chechen leadership and by the regiment's commander who, incidentally, is not allowed to enter the premises of the unit. According to reports that have not been officially confirmed, Dzhokhar Dudayev is staying in a Grozenergo bunker.

Contradictory Reports Received

LD2607121594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1150 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—The situation in the Chechen Republic, a constituent part of the Russian Federation, remains unclear. A report was received by ITAR-TASS this morning that the Shalinskiy tank regiment, the main striking force of the Chechen army, went out of President Dzhokhar Dudayev's control and said that it will not prevent the opposition from taking power in the republic.

According to information available to ITAR-TASS, the leaders of the Chechen opposition requested the Russian leadership to recognise the Provisional Council headed by Umar Avturkhanov (head of the Nadterechnyy district administration) the only legitimate body of power in Chechnya for a transition period till elections to republican and federal bodies of power.

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According to information from reliable sources, the opposition leadership also called on the Russian president to act as a guarantor for restoring constitutional order, peace and calm in Chechnya.

However, official sources in Groznyy deny this information. The CHECHENPRESS news agency circulated a report, saying on behalf of Isa Dalkhayev, commander of the Shalinskiy Tank Regiment, that his regiment remains loyal to the Chechen president.

"It is normal and quiet" in Chechnya, Pashayev, assistant to the republican information minister, said in a telephone interview from Groznyy at Tuesday noon.

According to Pashayev, a meeting of the Chechen Provisional Council which was held in the Nadterechnyy district and which called for "restoring constitutional order in Chechnya" and for recognising the Provisional Council the only body of state authority in the republic, "is of no significance for the Chechen people, since this body does not express anybody's interests, apart from people seating on it".

Yaragi Mamodayev, chairman of "the government of popular confidence", which is in opposition to Dudayev, also gave a negative appraisal to Avturkhanov.

He called the organisation which requested the Russian president for support, "an imposter structure" and described its emergence as "a crude provocation", fraught with a civil war in the republic. "No more than 1,000 people stand behind the Provisional Council," he said in an interview with ITAR-TASS on Tuesday.

In the meantime, according to a statement by the Russian president's press secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov, Boris Yeltsin closely examines the situation in Chechnya and hopes that active unification of healthy political forces will pull the republic out of the difficult economic and political crisis as well as to protect the rights of citizens to peaceful life and work.

The presidential press secretary sent this statement to ITAR-TASS in connection with numerous addresses, letters and telegrammes from Chechnya to Yeltsin and his office, describing numerous violations of human rights and armed clashes which often result in casualties among civilians.

Chechnya Accuses Russia of 'Shameful Propaganda'

LD2607135694 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1318 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Moscow, 26 July (ITAR-TASS)—The press service of the Chechen president has accused the Russian media of "monstrous falsification" of recent events in the republic and made it understood that it believes the Russian leadership is behind this.

The press service described the Russian media reports about numerous casualties, blown-up bridges, and the seizure of settlements by the opposition, about hostilities in Groznyy and about a split in the Chechen army as "an outright lie" aimed at organizing "yet another provocation" in Chechnya.

The sharp statement which was today circulated by the CHECHENPRESS agency blames the Russian leadership for using "shameful propaganda tricks" which "once and for all reveal its true face under the democratic mask".

Kostikov: Yeltsin Not Planning 'Hasty Moves'

LD2607132894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1301 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anna Melnikova]

[Text] Moscow July 26 TASS—Boris Yeltsin does not intend to make hasty moves concerning the situation in the Chechen Republic," the Russian president's spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov told ITAR-TASS here on Tuesday.

Asked to comment on the Russian leader's attitude to the situation in self-style Chechnya, Kostikov said that the president "studies information coming in from all available sources and is in no hurry to draw conclusions, understanding the complicated and contradictory situation in the republic".

Kostikov believes that the president "is guided, above all, by the understanding of the complicated nature of historical factors which largely determine relations between Russia and North Caucasian regions".

Chechnya Opposition Wins 'De Facto Recognition'

MM2707103794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Leonid Sergeyev: "Former Speaker Versus 'Rebel General'"]

[Text] Two events recently have added fuel to the flames of the conflict smoldering in Chechnya. The armed clash near the bridge in the city of Argun between detachments loyal to Ruslan Labazanov, who has sworn to take his revenge against Dzhokhar Dudayev for the recent death of his brother, and troops loyal to General Dudayev himself almost led to large-scale bloodshed. Only the intervention of elders and the clergy made the gunmen and the soldiers cease fire. This case graphically shows that the situation in Groznyy could get out of control at any time, contrary to the assurances given by officials.

The second factor that has disturbed Chechnya is the speech made by the former speaker of the Russian parliament. Ruslan Khasbulatov, who—by all accounts—has decided to return to "big-time politics," sharply criticized Dzhokhar Dudayev: "I can go wherever I like on Russian Federation territory at any time, including Groznyy, and nobody will lift a finger to

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infringe any of my rights. If Dudayev tried to do so, he would be swept away by those who are waiting for a solution to the crisis. And I would have carried out a kind of peacemaking function."

Khasbulatov believes that the "most useful thing" for Dudayev to do would be to resign honorably, and then his people could be allowed to take part in new elections observed by the Chechen spiritual authorities, among which Ruslan Khasbulatov includes himself.

For his part, Movladi Udugov, Chechen minister of the press and information, stated that "Khasbulatov is a Russian citizen and a Russian politician through and through. He can still have an impact on Russian politics." Moreover, the minister particularly noted that "Russia will wait in vain for forces to come to power in Chechnya that are prepared to recognize the republic as a Russian Federation component."

According to the minister, the Chechen side is setting no preconditions for talks. "The Russian side need only relinquish its imperial ambitions," the minister stressed. As he put it, the talks are aimed at achieving an interstate treaty between Moscow and Groznyy on a bilateral basis.

M. Udugov believes that there is currently "a real likelihood of a second Russo-Caucasian war." According to his information, this is shown by the concentration of Russian troops along the Chechen borders.

So, the position of official Groznyy has not changed, despite the threat of an armed conflict within the republic.

Stop Press

Umar Avturkhanov, leader of the Chechen opposition and chairman of the Chechen Republic Interim Council, met in Moscow Sunday with Sergey Filatov, leader of the Russian Federation Presidential Staff.

INTERFAX has been told by a spokesman for the opposition headquarters that various aspects of Russo-Chechen relations, as well as the prospects for them, were discussed during the long meeting.

U. Avturkhanov's entourage believes that the main result of these official contacts is the de facto recognition by the Russian side of the Interim Council's powers and its agreement to negotiate with it.

INTERFAX as yet has no confirmation of this report from official Kremlin sources.

According to unconfirmed reports, representatives of most Chechen combat units—particularly the Shalinskiy Tank Regiment—have declared their neutrality in the current conflict, and Dzh. Dudayev can only count on firm support from the OMON [Special-Purpose Militia Detachment] battalion deployed in Groznyy. The president also has the support of one region—the one where he was born.

Chechen Opposition Criticizes Dudayev Elections Proposal

LD2607120094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1044 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Representatives of the Chechen opposition have criticized the statement by President Dzhokhar Dudayev to the effect that he intends to hold presidential elections in the summer of 1995.

Dudayev's statement should not be taken seriously, Interfax was told by the spokesman for Chechen Republic's Provisional Council (an organization uniting the forces in opposition to Dudayev—IF[INTERFAX]), Ruslan Martagov.

Matagov said, "The general has never been known as a man of his word."

As to the public statements by the Chechen leader concerning the elections, which he made on Monday night on local television, this, believes Martagov, is an attempt to make himself more important in the eyes of the public.

Dudayev cannot be sure of tomorrow, to say nothing of a longer period, say, one year or more, said Martagov.

Dudayev Uncertain on Seeking Reelection

LD2607180594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev made his announcement that the presidential elections will be held in the republic on October 27, 1995 in order to put an end to rumors on the subject, Chechen Deputy Foreign Minister Ruslan Chimayev told Interfax Tuesday.

He said that the timing of the elections was dictated by legislation rather than political pressure.

According to Chimayev, Dudayev has not made up his mind whether he would seek reelection.

Chimayev denied numerous news reports on continuing skirmishes between the government and opposition units. He called the situation calm in Chechnya.

He said that former Russian parliament chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov, who has offered his services as a mediator between the authorities and opposition, would not make a suitable peacemaker because he, in Chimayev's opinion, has Russian interests at heart rather than what is good for Chechnya. In particular, Khasbulatov has spoken for Chechnya's political integration with Russia, rejected by Chechen society, according to Chimayev.

Chimayev added that if a Chechen says he is an atheist, as Khasbulatov did when he chaired the Russian parliament, his word loses all weight in Chechnya.

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Deputy Interior Minister Arrives in N. Ossetia

LD2607143794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1350 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz July 26 TASS—Colonel-General Anatoliy Kulikov, commander-in-chief of the Russian interior troops and deputy interior minister, has arrived in the north Caucasus to familiarise himself with the situation in the zone of conflict between Ossetia and Ingushetia, where the state of emergency expires on July 31.

Early on Tuesday, Kulikov and Lieutenant-General Yuriy Kosolapov, commander-in-chief of Russia's north Caucasian troops, met Georgiy Kozayev, first deputy head of the North Ossetian government, to discuss the procedure of returning refugees to North Ossetia.

Kulikov noted that the time had come for Ossetia and Ingushetia to make concrete steps towards peace and concord. Their problems can be solved not by force but only through negotiations, he said.

According to Kozayev, North Ossetia is longing for a peaceful settlement of the conflict with Ingushetia and for the return of refugees. At the same time, he noted that it is necessary to restore housing and social infrastructure in the conflict-torn areas, otherwise the social and political situation in the region may worsen further. According to the North Ossetian official, only the work of Ossetian-Ingush conciliation committees may bring the situation back to normal. Kozayev noted that any redrawing of borders in the region should be removed from the agenda because the issue may lead to a new tragedy.

Chernomyrdin Visits Penza To Review Defense Industries

LD2707044394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0428 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Moscow July 27 ITAR-TASS—While Russian President Boris Yeltsin will be touring east Siberia, Russia's second leading politician, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is off on a one-day trip to central European Russia's city of Penza for a similar purpose, to look into the state of the defence industrial enterprises and their conversion to civilian production.

Chernomyrdin is due to visit a major defence enterprise in the region, the Frunze production facility, and look at exhibits at the local exhibition of consumer goods manufactured in the converted defence enterprises.

The prime minister is expected to be back in Moscow later in the day.

Counterintelligence Service Chief Visits Cherkessk

LD2707084594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0807 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Moscow July 27 ITAR-TASS—The Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service must step up its activity in fighting organised crime, corruption and gangsterism in the country, service chief Sergey Stepashin said in the city of Cherkessk on Tuesday.

Sergey Stepashin was speaking during a visit to the Karachai- Cirkessia [Karachayevo-Cherkess]. He took part in the joint session of the presidium of the National Assembly and the Council of Ministers of this North Caucasian republic.

The meeting discussed the situation which arose in the republic due to an on-going conflict between the branches of power. According to observers, the conflict stems from ethnic contradictions.

The Federal Counterintelligence Service director met Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vladimir Khubiyev and National Assembly Chairman Viktor Savelyev, as well as the leaders of the Cossacks living in the republic to review the situation.

During these meetings, Sergey Stepashin discussed ways and means of reaching accord in the republic and blocking its development along an unconstitutional path, as well as suppressing acts of extremism in the course of handling community, political and social problems.

It was agreed that Stepashin would inform the Russian president about the results of his visit to the republic, the press centre of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service said.

Dagestan Constitutional Assembly Meets

LD2607201994 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Video report from Dagestan by correspondent O. Mamedova—from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] The constitutional assembly is meeting in Makhachkala today. The republic of Dagestan is adopting a new constitution, the draft of which was worked out on the lines of the Russian constitution, taking into account the republic's multi-ethnic nature and the interests of the people there.

Magomedali Magomedovich Magomedov, chairman of the constitutional commission, delivered a report. He stressed that in a difficult situation the people of Dagestan have not stained the centuries of history of friendship and fraternity and have not allowed themselves to become drawn into ethnic conflicts. Elections to the State Council in which representatives of the 14 different peoples of the republic, including the Russian people, will be held in the assembly. For the time being it may be stated that the new constitution of the republic of Dagestan has more supporters than opponents. [video shows assembly scenes]

[Announcer Svetlana Sorokina] At the constitutional assembly in Makhachkala the chairman of the state council of the republic of Dagestan was elected. He was Magomedov, chairman of the Dagestan Supreme Soviet.

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'Sealing' of Nuclear Torpedoes on Seabed Nears Completion

MM2707084394 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0300 GMT 20 Jul 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] On Tuesday the second stage opened of a planned expedition to the area where the Northern Fleet's nuclear submarine Komsomolets was lost. The expedition comprises two scientific research vessels—the Mstislav Keldysh and the Semen Dezhnev. During the second stage the sealing with special titanium plugs of the sub's torpedoes, including two torpedoes containing nuclear warheads, is to be completed.

According to specialists from the Arzamas-16 All-Russia Experimental Physics Scientific Research Institute and a number of other agencies, radiation in the area of the Norwegian Sea where the Komsomolets sank in 1989 does not exceed natural background radiation. The absence of raised radiation has been confirmed by a number of foreign specialists, including IAEA experts, who are taking part in the expedition.

Zhirinovskiy Draws Audience of 1,500 in Omsk

MM2707094394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 2

[Report by Yuriy Yepanchintsev: "Zhirinovskiy's Push to the East: Omsk Taken?"]

[Text] Completing his journey around Russia the leader of the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] stopped for 24 hours in Omsk. It is hard to compete with Vladimir Volfovich. Last Sunday people were packed like sardines in a can into halls which only a week ago were empty for meetings with Solzhenitsyn. There is not a single free seat; the aisles are packed; there are about 1,500 people. The presidium is empty, but the audience patiently awaits its idol.

Zhirinovskiy and his entourage get out of a car. The small square in front of the building is deserted.

"Where is my press?"

The press at once clamber out of the accompanying cars. Outside the entrance a placard reads: "Zhirinovskiy, We Are Not Cannon Fodder."

"Good, a welcoming party," Zhirinovskiy smiles.

There is a surprise in the press room—not one Omsk plant director has come to the meeting.

An hour later Zhirinovskiy has a tete-a-tete with the oblast leadership. The crowd in the stuffy hall, growing stiff, fan themselves with newspapers "All About Zhirinovskiy," containing anecdotes obviously in favor of their idol. The newspapers and leaflets are sold nearby, in the foyer. Here too people are recruited for "Zhirinovskiy's Hawks." Finally, the meeting with the oblast's top people is over, and the leader appears on stage. He has eight cities still to visit; Siberia must be taken.

"By comparison with other regions, things are fine here. Leaders like yours are needed in Moscow. Wise, conservative, sober leaders"—he begins, half-turned toward his audience. "One more election is needed in order to change the situation in the country. And it will take place either at the end of this year, or next spring. Since Nicholas II Russia has had nine rulers. It needs a tenth. In 1993 I came third in the presidential election. On 12 December 1993 25 percent voted for the LDPR. But this is not yet victory—victory is the presidency and a parliamentary majority. Then right away improvements will begin. We will end food imports, and military plants will begin working for export purposes. Our debts will be repaid to us. We will restore all savings deposits, first and foremost to the elderly—they must not be made to wait. You want advertisements? Have them at two in the morning. Or else you have this Lenya Golubkov [fictional character in MMM advertisements], now deciding to go on vacation, now buying a car—let him buy a coffin for Marina Sergeyevna [lonely spinster in same advertisement]. Swindlers!"

Deeply moved by these promises, the audience bursts into applause.

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International Affairs

Moroz Holds Private Meeting With Russia's Chernomyrdin

LD2607180194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1605 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament Oleksandr Moroz has arrived in Moscow for talks with his Russian counterparts of the Federation Assembly and government officials.

Soon after his arrival in the Russian capital, Moroz held a private meeting with Russian PM Viktor Chernomyrdin at the Government House in central Moscow. The two discussed bilateral relations in the wake of recent presidential elections in Ukraine won by Leonid Kuchma, well-informed sources told INTERFAX. Unconfirmed reports say Moroz has offered a package of proposals aimed at improving the climate of bilateral contacts and widening the areas of cooperation.

The Ukrainian official is due to meet his counterparts from the State Duma and Federation Council Ivan Rybkin and Vladimir Shumeyko and Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, and hold a news conference afterwards.

Official Says More Foreign Aid Needed To Close Chernobyl

LD2607144794 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1220 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—While visiting the Chernobyl AES [Nuclear Electric Power Station] on 25 July, Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol and Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz expressed the conviction that it would be inexpedient to close down the Chernobyl AES before its technical resources were exhausted.

Responding to a question from a UNIAN correspondent on what reaction could be expected from the international community, Borys Oliynyk, chairman of the Supreme Council commission on foreign affairs and relations with the CIS, noted that, obviously, international circles were interested in closing down the station, "but I would be ashamed even to announce the fact that U.S. $200 million had been allocated to help close down such a diabolical energy source. More needs to be given. Obviously, I support closing down all nuclear reactors, but who is going to guarantee that this will not result in the energy balance being violated? I think that the stations should be converted to alternative sources, and we should wait for a new generation of reactors, because today's reactors are by far not the best.

National Affairs

Kuchma's Relations With Parliament, Government Viewed

WS2607113394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Article by Yuriy Lukanov from the "Reviews, Commentaries, Outlooks" feature No. 30 (61), 24-31 Jul 94]

[Text] Having come to power, President Leonid Kuchma made his first step—signing a joint declaration with Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz and Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol, emphasizing that the three politicians are aware of the vital importance of "coordinated activities of all the branches of power as a significant condition for social accord."

Leonid Kuchma must seek understanding with Ukraine's other senior officials, given that he currently resembles a general without an army. As we know, the government was formed without his participation under Leonid Kravchuk's auspices, while Petro Symonenko's team dominates in the Supreme Council and Kuchma has no influence on the latter of which to speak. After the Supreme Council, under pressure from the left, failed to confirm the powers of Volodymyr Hrynyov, Kuchma was devoid even of this feeble support in the legislature.

The fact that the expansion of relations with the West, urged in Kuchma's inauguration speech, was not even mentioned in the three leaders' declaration, may be in line with the president's attempts to reach an agreement with the left, urging cooperation with Russia, Belarus, and other former Soviet republics. There was also a passage about "preserving the traditions of friendship among our nations."

Oleksandr Moroz stated at his 20 July news conference that no significant differences exist between him and the president. Leonid Stryzhenko, secretary of Kharkov Oblast Communist Party Committee, went somewhat further, asserting to a UNIAN reporter that communists and Kuchma have "a common standpoint on two cardinal issues. The first and the primary one is the integration of CIS members and a revival of a union; the other—the preservation of Ukraine's economic potential on the basis of state property." Such ideological accord, however, does not mean that communists are ready to grant Kuchma organizational backing.

A conference of local council deputies and chairmen was held in Kiev on 19 July, devoted to the discussion of the Law of Ukraine "On Local Councils of People's Deputies," passed by the legislature on its first reading. As was pointed out by Oleksandr Steshenko, chairman of the Commission for Legal Policy and Judicial and Legal Reform, according to the law, chairmen of all councils, regardless of their level, as well as these councils, are subordinated to the Cabinet of Ministers and the executive committees of upper-level councils. Speaking at the same conference, President Kuchma thanked the chairmen for their support of his postulate that no progress can be made without a rigid executive structure running from top to bottom. Serhiy Sobolev, member of the aforementioned legislative commission, pointed out that "an evident tug-of-war is under way between Leonid Kuchma and Oleksandr Moroz."

Since Leonid Kuchma was defeated in western and central Ukraine, he should now be expected to seek support in these regions. Judging by the fact that he has

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recently started speaking Ukrainian, he is trying to do so. The attempts to reach accord with communists are, however, causing him to make steps that are unpopular in those regions and evoke criticism on the part of the political forces which dominate there. In particular, a majority of parties and organizations of the national-democratic trend have passed a declaration criticizing the thesis voiced by the president in his inauguration speech about Ukraine being a part of Eurasia and the location of Ukraine's vital interests in Eurasia. The writers of the declaration maintain that "in historic, geographic, and geopolitical terms, Ukraine belongs to Europe. New technologies and democratic traditions can come to Ukraine primarily from Europe. Ukraine's economic contacts with Russia are necessary, however, they should be aimed at consolidating Ukraine's independence and not on turning Ukraine into a neocolonial state." The declaration then carries a warning that if Kuchma supports Russian plans to transform the CIS into a superpower, this might produce a bloody conflict, given that "Ukraine will not join the new empire on its own free will."

A group of renowned Ukrainian writers have voiced their protest against the president's proposal to grant official status to the Russian language. Members of political parties, movements, and public organizations in Lvov Oblast have made public an open letter to the president in which they reserve the right to call oblast residents and the entire Ukrainian people to engage in acts of protest and civil disobedience should Leonid Kuchma resort to actions that may lead to the restoration of the empire.

The president has found himself in a situation when his every step will cause dissatisfaction on either the right or the left. Moreover, he has no way of influencing events. Will he manage to maintain his balance? It would do Kuchma a world of good if his resoluteness was accompanied by a bit of Kravchuk's craftiness. Thus far, however, Kuchma was not observed to be as cunning as a fox.

Kuchma Appoints Head of Presidential Administration

LD2607165994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] We received today the edict of the president of Ukraine on the head of presidential administration. It appoints Dmytro Tabachnyk as the head of administration.

Kuchma Presses for Strong Presidential Power

LD2607193994 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpt] [Announcer] Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma today held a working conference with chairmen of oblast councils of people's deputies and Kiev's, Sevastopol's, and oblast centers' town councils. [Unidentified correspondent] The conference, held with the participation of Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol, Oleksandr Tkachenko, Supreme Council first deputy chairman, and government officials, discussed the economy's urgent problems that required immediate attention, questions of cooperation between the center and the regions, and restoration of the optimal structure of executive power.

Leonid Kuchma characterized the catastrophic condition of our state's economy where budgetary expenditure exceeded revenue by 191 billion karbovantsi, which represented 20 percent of the gross national product. He, at the same time, pointed out that we would not be able to overcome the economic crisis and ensure political stability unless we had a strong executive authority.

In order to organize a sensible system of government, the Ukrainian president underlined, the relationship between the parliament and the president should be clearly defined so as to exclude unnecessary competition between various branches of power, a vertical executive structure headed by the president should accordingly be created, and the regionalization of economic and humanitarian policies should be ensured. [passage omitted]

Kuchma, Ministers Discuss Economic Matters

LD2607134594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in English 0000 26 Jul 94

[Text] On 25 July President Leonid Kuchma had a working meeting with Minister of Economy Roman Shpek, Minister of Finances Petro Hermanchuk, head of the Board of the National Bank, Viktor Yushchenko [title as heard], well-known Ukrainian economists. The subject of the meeting was financial stabilization and currency regulation. It was stressed at the meeting that this subject is the most urgent problem on the solution of which depends the revival of Ukrainian economy and therefore the material well-being of each family. The participants in the meeting offered ways of stabilization of Ukrainian karbovanets, [words indistinct] of paper money, to annul the fixed exchange rate. Without these measures the production decline will continue. Ukraine will be losing its market and practically all exports will be unprofitable. Summing up the meeting, President Leonid Kuchma commissioned urban bodies to revise the drafts of the decrees on currency regulation, on the protection of the domestic market and on the customs policy of Ukraine. The president instructed a group of specialists to prepare a draft of a law on the taxation of profits received by industrial enterprises and organizations.

Kuchma Reorganizes Nationalities Ministry

LD2607202194 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Today we received the Ukrainian president's directives. Under a directive on the head of the Ukrainian president's administration, Dmytro Volodymyrovych Tabachnyk is appointed head of administration.

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A directive is issued on forming the Ministry of Ukraine for Matters of Nationalities, Migration, and Cults [Ministerstvo Ukrayiny u Spravakh Natsionalnostey, Mihratsiyi ta Kultiv], and on disbanding the Ministry of Ukraine for Matters of Nationalities and Migration, and the Council for Matters of Religion under the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Mykola Oleksandrovych Shulha is appointed minister for matters of nationalities, migration, and Cults.

'Left-Wing Forces' Dominate New Parliament

LD2607205594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2012 GMT 26 Jul 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[Text] Kiev 26 July TASS—Only 20 out of the 112 vacant seats in the Ukrainian parliament were filled in the rerun of parliamentary election last Sunday.

Over 900 candidates stood for the polls, but turnout was high enough only in 66 constituencies to consider the election valid. In 46 out of these constituencies, voters will have to come to the polls again in two weeks, while in the remaining 46 constituencies the election was declared invalid altogether.

Re-elected to parliament were former deputy prime minister Yuliy Yoffe, former minister for nationalities and migration Oleksandr Yemets, chairman of the Dnipropetrovsk Regional Council Pavel Lazorenko, former chairman of the National Bank's board of directors Vadym Hetman and others. The bulk of newly-elected lawmakers is made up of senior officials of various standings.

At the moment, the Ukrainian parliament numbers 335 deputies. Three have been already excluded: the Supreme Soviet [Council] did not confirm the mandates of two deputies and suspended that of leonid kuchma following his election to the republic's presidency.

One in four lawmakers is a communist. The nationalist people's Rukh movement has 6 per cent of seats in parliament. It is followed by the Peasants' Party with 5 per cent and the Socialist Party which has won 4 per cent of seats. Left-wing forces constitute the overwhelming majority of the supreme legislature.

Kuchma Visits Missile-Building Concern in Dnepropetrovsk

AU2607112494 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 23 Jul 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "A Trip to the Dnieper Region"]

[Text] Yesterday [22 July], Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma made a working trip to Dnepropetrovsk Oblast. The program envisaged visiting collective farms in Solonyanskyy Rayon and inspecting the course of harvesting. The head of the Ukrainian state took part in the festivities on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the world's greatest missile-building concern—"the Southern Machine-Building Plant" [PMZ], where he, after graduating from the local state university, covered the path from engineer to general director. Artificial satellites, the "Kosmos" and "Tsyklon" missile launchers, and the famous "Zenit" are known worldwide. Owing to their technological and environmental characteristics, they are considered to be models of space technology for the 21st century. Over past decades, the association designed and built almost 400 most-sophisticated space vehicles and specimens of unique technology for implementing the programs "Kosmos" [Space] and "Interkosmos" [International Space]. About 2 million tractors with the trademark "PMZ" already work in 50 countries of the world. The Ukrainian president sincerely congratulated the collective of the enterprise on the anniversary.

Fistfight Breaks Out in Parliament Over Russian Language

LD2607193294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] A fistfight broke out at the evening session of the Ukrainian parliament on Tuesday during discussion of the use of the Russian language.

Vladislav Nosov, a member of the Regulations Committee, who delivered a report on the subject, declared that according to a draft law an MP having no command of the official Ukrainian language should submit the text of his or her speech to the secretariat for translation.

An argument broke out during which an insulting remark about the Ukrainian language was made. A representative of the Lvov Region, member of RUKh, Yaroslav Kendzior shouted that even an elephant could be taught to speak Ukrainian in four years. Aleksandr Chupakhin, Socialist from the Kharkov Region, replied with obscenities. A fistfight began.

After the incident the Socialist group demanded punishment for Kendzior from the parliamentary ethics committee, while the RUKh leader Vyacheslav Chornovil called for a discussion of the behavior of the Socialists. The debate on the draft law was put off till Wednesday.

Earlier the parliament turned down the proposal to make Russian a working language of parliament along side Ukrainian.

Crimean Parliament Plans Seizure of Land From Military

MK2607091794 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 4

[Report by Viktor Yadukha under the "Crimea" rubric: "They Are Taking Land From the Military"]

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[Text] They are taking land from the military, which is not being used for any specified purpose.

Your SEGODNYA correspondent has learned from confidential sources in Crimea's parliament that a closed-door sitting of the Supreme Soviet commission on military questions passed a draft parliament decree "On Land Occupied by Military Units and Institutions, and on Rules of Reciprocal Payments Involved in its Renting."

The draft calls for the seizure of 17,988 hectares of land currently taken up by military units and being used for other than designated purposes. The Crimean parliamentarians are incensed in particular by the fact that having taken over the former training grounds of the 32d Army Corps in the village of Perevalnoye between Simferopol and Yalta, and the former aviation training ground of the USSR Navy, Saki-4, where there was a center training air pilots for aircraft carriers, the Ukrainian command sublets part of these territories to commercial structures which affects Crimea's budget. A new mechanism of rental charges is now being developed for the military units stationed in Crimea.

Radetskyy Dismissal Expected; Candidates Named

WS2707101294 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 22 Jul 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Odessa Soil Is Rich in Defense Ministers"]

[Text] According to sources close to the Ukrainian presidential administration, the most probable candidates for the post of defense minister are: Odessa Military District Commander Volodymyr Skydchenko; Ivan Oliynyk, deputy defense minister for hardware and armaments; Anatoliy Lopata, Ukrainian Armed Forces chief of staff; and Ukrainian Land Forces Commander Vasyl Sobkov.

According to a presidential administration official, who preferred to remain anonymous, the issue of appointing a new defense minister will be brought forward next week. The same informer pointed out that Ukraine's incumbent Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy "had not been very loyal in his comments about the new president."

Meanwhile, Ukrainian Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol had said earlier in an interview with INTERFAX-UKRAINE that the Council of Ministers had practically been formed.

Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz also pointed out at a news conference in Kiev that changes in the government's composition would be minimal.

Official Cites Interior Ministry Corruption

AU2707100894 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 23 Jul 94 p 3

[Interview with Colonel Hryhoriy Omelyanovych Omelchenko, chairman of the Standing Commission for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption, by Anatoliy Ben; place and date not given: "This Is Going To Be an Uncompromising Struggle"]

[Text] It is both easy and difficult to introduce Colonel Hryhoriy Omelchenko, chairman of the Standing Commission for Combating Organized Crime and Corruption. Easy, because this person's sharp and not infrequently sensational exposures in the press, such as "The Internal Affairs Mafia," "The Gold-Mine," "The Corruption Pyramid," "The Internal Pressure Ministry," and so on can say much about him.

Difficult, because his personality is far from being common. Miraculously combined in him are sociability and pleasant manners (to the extent of sentimentality—he invariably starts his speeches with the introductory words "Dear Fellow Citizens"; he often addresses his associates with gentleness). This is the one hand. On the other hand, he is characterized by an iron will and irreconcilability with regard to dishonest people and perjurers and by readiness to be like a "razor blade" for the sake of Ukraine.

A few years ago, a rank-and-file teacher at the Higher Militia School challenged the stagnant system of the Internal Affairs Ministry. However, unlike other such bold spirits, he did not allow the system to trample on him. As sportsmen put it, he can counter the blow. Not just in the direct sense of the word (Omelchenko is a master of sports in hand-to-hand combat). Generals at the Ministry of Internal Affairs who never missed an opportunity to give him negative characteristics in public, were compelled to give him a character description like that of an angel when he was transferred to Ukraine's Security Service [SBU]—as chief of the Military Counterintelligence Department.

He is a scientist—a candidate of juridical sciences and is fluent in Spanish. He is a politician, who was at the source of Ukraine's Officers Union and of the secret officers' organization "Anti-Mafia." He later headed the former, but refuses to say who heads the latter.

Recent Ukrainian presidential candidate Volodymyr Lanovyy listed his name among those, whom he would like to see in his government. Well, his rating may even be higher. I am sure that if the crime-breeding situation in our society further deteriorates, then, as follows from the presidential elections in Belarus, Hryhoriy Omelchenko has every chance of becoming Ukraine's third president. Although he himself swears that he does not strive for that.

[Ben] Hryhoriy Omelyanovych, corruption and "mafiazation" of our society have acquired such proportions that it is useless to struggle against these phenomena even within such a powerful state structure as the Security Service. Radical political and legislative measures are necessary. Have you come to the Supreme Council to make such steps?

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[Omelchenko] There is simply other alternative. That is why my former deputy, SBU Colonel Anatoliy Yermak also put himself to the vote for a Supreme Council deputy and was elected. At present, another four SBU officers, working in subunits for combating corruption and organized crime are also conducting an election campaign. including my subordinate, Lieutenant Colonel Mykola Petrenko, who is on the list of candidates at the Hayvoron (Kirovohrad Oblast) constituency. He is that same Petrenko together with whom we foiled the affair that involved selling abroad two Mig-25 RB fighters at a very cheap price....

In my homeland—Poltava Oblast—there also are [SBU] officers who put themselves to the vote: Anatoliy Kulakov in Kobelyaky, Oleksandr Khrystenko in Khorol, Mykola Karnaukh in Lubny, and Captain 3d Rank Mykola Huk in Myrhorod electoral districts. Taking this opportunity, I appeal to voters, especially residents of Poltava Oblast, to give support at the elections to these incorruptible, dedicated, and honest people.

[Ben] Incidentally, quite a number of honest people, candidates for people's deputies, expressed their readiness to join your commission. One of them, former prisoner of conscience Leonid Sapa, whom we all know quite well, was registered at Central Constituency No. 22 in Kiev. This is yet further evidence that you and your supporters have taken a tough course. You, for example, came out against immunity for deputies, something for which some people strived to be elected to the Supreme Council, as they had hoped to evade responsibility for what they had done.

[Omelchenko] I consider it our great victory that we managed to pass the decision on the creation of an independent Standing Parliamentary Commission for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime.

We also saw to it that a temporary deputies commission be created for control over (and support for) the investigation into the case of the "Ukrahrotekhservis" [Ukrainian Agricultural Technology Service] in connection with the attempt on the life of people's deputy Bortnyk. In particular, through our efforts an audit of the state concern and of those commercial and state finance and banking structures with which he had maintained business contacts was conducted.

The commission seconded my proposal on the creation of a parliamentary investigation commission for the case of the "Blasco" Concern, and much has already been done in this direction.

We, a group of officer deputies, appealed to our compatriots, voters, and people's deputies with a request to support us and abolish deputies' immunity. A corresponding appeal was published in the press. More than 50 Supreme Council deputies of various political orientations, supported us with their signatures, and so did almost the entire deputies' group "Reforms."

As follows from the statistics of the Procurator General's Office, in 1992-93 alone, sessions of councils at various levels prevented the calling to account on criminal charges of 333 deputies and, starting from 1990, more than 500 such persons have not been put on trial. Just tell me whether honest people need such feudal immunity.

[Ben] In my opinion, your predecessor at the post of the commission chairman Viktor Slyesarenko made a kind of local parliamentary revolution. Despite the powerful lobbyism and sometimes even unconcealed sabotage, he and his associates managed to create an independent deputies' group for combating organized crime and elaborated and passed through the law "On Organizational and Legal Principles for Combating Organized Crime." However, they were not allowed to bring all of this to logical completion. Will you succeed in making progress? What and whom do you rely upon? What hopes do you pin on new Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in this respect?

[Omelchenko] We saw to it that the bill on combating corruption that Kondratyev's commission elaborated and "pushed" to a second reading be entrusted to our commission. It must be revised conceptually. After we familiarized ourselves with the bill, our impression was that it had been prepared just so that it could be ticked off or prepared at the order of some social group, but in no way for the actual struggle against corruption.

I am counting upon the understanding of the majority of parliamentarians. The question of decriminalizing our society and establishing law and order was the cornerstone of their election programs.

Although after some delay, the parliament authorized the decision to institute a criminal case against Colonel Kostenko, deputy of Chutivska Rayon Council in Poltava Oblast, chief of the militia rayon department (203—for and 44—against). You know, for me the discussion of this issue at the session was a kind of litmus test—whether or not our Supreme Council is ready to deal with everybody as he deserves and establish the principle of dividing power into Legislative, Executive, and Judicial power.

I have special hopes for members of my commission for whom the law is something sacred. I cannot help making a special comment on the commission secretary Galina Starovoytova [a former adviser to Russian President Yeltsin is so named]—a highly professional lawyer, an honest person of principle and great courage. I am grateful to fate for sending such people to my commission.

I have plans to create special subunits for combating corruption and official abuse in the upper echelons of power, similar to American or Italian special subunits. Over two years, Italian colleagues, with whom I, incidentally, had secret meetings, conducted the operation "Clean Hands," and, last year, put on the country's

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president's desk indisputable proof of the involvement of 140 members of the parliament and government in corruption and the mafia. The president had to address the people, the parliament was dissolved, and criminal cases against those 140 persons were submitted to the Supreme Court. This is a state level of combating corruption and organized crime!

At the same time, in Ukraine, special SBU subunits for combating organized crime have not been created to this day, the former leadership of the state did not approve the creation of this structure, did not allocate it either premises or funds for its material and technological provision.

The law "On the Organizational and Legal Foundation for Combating Organized Crime" has actually been reduced to naught.

I hope that now, with Leonid Kuchma as president, we will succeed in uniting the efforts of the legislative and executive powers and start a true cleansing of the power structures from corrupt officials. This is our credo: There may be compromise in politics, but not in the sphere of combating corruption and the Mafia, since otherwise it would be moral involvement in committing crimes or moral treason. If Leonid Danylovych [Kuchma], whose position was particularly manifested in the so-called "Oil Affair," sticks to the same principle, then I think that we will persevere in this uncompromising struggle.

There is no doubt that it is going to be a tough struggle. Already today, in the investigation of the "Blasco" case, of the attempt upon the life of people's deputy V. Bortnyk, and other cases, which are interrelated, we had to insist on providing very meticulous bodyguard services for members of the operational investigation groups—first deputy Procurator General Oleh Lytvak and deputy SBU chairman and chief of the Main Administration for Combating Corruption Volodymyr Radchenko and on evacuating their families from Kiev....

[Ben] Excuse me, shouldn't your family also be evacuated? I know that you have been receiving threats....

[Omelchenko] This is correct....

[Ben] It is one thing to adopt fine laws on combating crime and an entirely different matter implementing them. Before the present Supreme Council started work, you said in an interview that the Ministry of Internal Affairs is a dreadful 500,000-strong monster whose, I am quoting, "leadership at various levels is rolling in abuse." After you, as chairman of a parliamentary commission, have obtained more extensive information, haven't you changed your assessment?

[Omelchenko] I worked in the system of the Internal Affairs Ministry from 1976-992. I know it well and am absolutely convinced that it needs to be radically reformed. Just think, does this system really need the Passport Service, the Department for Visas and Permits, the Penitentiary Service, the Fire-Fighting Service, or the State Automobile Inspection? My impression is that our state might, quite soon, turn into a militia-police-governed one, like some Latin American states. In my opinion, the administration apparatus of that department must be reduced by about 60 percent, and its leadership and board must be replaced. I already wrote much about the abusive practices of former first deputy minister Korniychuk and his successor General Nedryhaylo.

Where in what country is this possible?

After, on Nedryhaylo's initiative, the special State Automobile Inspection group, headed by Khetmanchyk, was disbanded (it was supposed to locate automobiles stolen abroad), the German police refused to sign an agreement on cooperation that had already been prepared for signing. Ukraine suffered international and political losses. For the leadership of the Ministry of Internal Affairs it was like water off a duck's back.

[Ben] Incidentally, Hryhoriy Omelyanovych, this story about which you have written in HOLOS UKRAYINY more than once has a disgraceful sequel. Not only doesn't the Ministry of Internal Affairs return foreign cars to their legitimate owners, but even the packages of documents provided by the owners to help locate the cars have not been returned. The reply of the militia department is simply abusive—turn to the official to whom you gave the documents. The ministry saw to it that that official was no longer there....

[Omelchenko] There already is an accord that, after the leadership of the Interior Ministry is replaced, cooperation agreements will be signed with internal affairs bodies of Germany, Belgium, Austria, and some other countries. Then the struggle against international criminal organizations, including those engaged in stealing cars, will be raised to an international level. If a certain foreign automobile was stolen (we have information that two-thirds of all the automobiles that are brought to CIS countries from Western Europe are stolen), it will be returned to its legitimate owner, no matter how high-ranking the official riding in it in Ukraine might be.

In a specific case, I as chairman of the Standing Parliamentary Commission, am taking this opportunity to officially ask, through your newspaper, that all those documents that were handed over to the Interior Ministry be returned to the representative of the German side. Yet another international scandal is the last thing I would want. As you see, we have enough work even today.

More on Conflict Over Kerch Strait

944K1837A Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jul 94 p 1

[Interview with Captain 1st Rank V.M. Samokhvalov, senior officer on issues of international law at the Headquarters of the Black Sea Fleet, by G. Staroverov,

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KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA special correspondent; place and date not given: In the Kerch Strait... Piracy?"]

[Text] [Staroverov] Valeriy Mikhaylovich, have difficulties arisen with passage through the Kerch Strait?

[Samokhvalov] Unfortunately, this is so. I will cite a recent case. In July the captain of the ship Volgobalt-247 of the Volga-Don river shipping line, guided by the generally accepted principles of international law, and under the conditions of absence of a bilateral agreement between the Russian Federation and Ukraine on use of the Kerch Strait, refused to take on a pilot and did not approve the payment for services in the sum of $2,200 with a radiogram.

In spite of this, under the pressure of the maritime border service of Ukraine, the ship's captain was compelled to sign a pilot's receipt. And, according to a statement of the captain of the Kerch Port, the border service of Ukraine will act in the same way in the future.

[Staroverov] Is this a violation?

[Samokhvalov] Of course. The decision made in a unilateral procedure by Ukraine concerning mandatory pilot escort in the Kerch Strait for ships of Russia and other CIS countries is a gross violation of pertinent articles of the UN Convention on Maritime Law.

[Staroverov] Valeriy Mikhaylovich, what is the historical evolvement of the Kerch Strait issue?

[Samokhvalov] As is known, the Kucuk Kaynarca Peace Treaty between Russia and Turkey was signed in July 1774. According to it, Turkey ceded the Kuban, Azov, Kerch, etc., to Russia. The Kerch Strait became Russian.

Exactly 220 years later, Turkey, in a unilateral procedure, put into effect a national regulation on navigation. This significantly toughened the routine for the passage of foreign ships and vessels in the zone of the Black Sea strait. The Russian side, as one of the principal "users" of the Bosporous and the Dardanelles, lodged a resolute protest with Ankara.

As the saying goes, a bad example is contagious. The fact that the navigable part of the Kerch-Yenikalskiy Canal borders on the coast of the Crimea gives rise to Ukraine's attempt to gain an advantage for itself and assume the right to regulate navigation in the strait in a unilateral procedure. It seems that it is necessary for the Russian Federation and Ukraine to develop the kind of legal regime for the Kerch Strait that would serve the interests of both countries. And this must be done in the immediate future.

[Staroverov] Valeriy Mikhaylovich, how do things stand in this regard with the Black Sea Fleet?

[Samokhvalov] At present the Black Sea Fleet, being a fleet of Russia and of Ukraine, is resolutely for the establishment of a regime in the Kerch international strait that is based on the general principles of international law that is different from the regime of territorial seas and stipulates the unimpeded passage of all vessels, including naval ships. This position was reflected in the aforementioned convention. According to its provisions, taking into account the geographical position of the Kerch Strait and the waters it forms, the most optimal variant could be a regime of transit passage as is established in such important international straits such as the straits of Gibraltar, Malacca, Singapore, Hormuz, Bab-el-Mandeb, and others.

Thus, a UN convention of 1982 reinforces as a legal norm the historically developed principle of the free unimpeded transit passage of vessels and ships of all nations through an absolute majority of international straits.

[Staroverov] How are the actions of the maritime border service of Ukraine to be assessed from the standpoint of the convention?

[Samokhvalov] They can be called nothing other than piratical. Incidentally, for some reason the flag of the border fleet of Ukraine has not yet been registered with the UN Commission for International Maritime Law.

But piracy, according to the same convention (Articles 101, 102), is any illegal act of coercion directed against any vessel and persons in a place that is outside the jurisdiction of any state whatsoever.

In addition, Article 110 indicates that, except in cases when acts of interference are based on rights established by international treaties, naval ships on meeting a foreign vessel do not have a right to subject it to inspection if there is no reasonable basis to suspect that: The vessel is engaged in piracy, the slave trade, unapproved broadcasting, or that it does not have a nationality.

Thus, the international-legal incompetence of the actions of the Ukrainian maritime border service is confirmed with respect to vessels that move through the Kerch Strait.

It has to be assumed that, in fulfilling an intermediary mission, the Black Sea Fleet has a right to take under protection the passage of Russian vessels and ships in the Kerch Strait by organizing patrol duty. This would be a compulsory and temporary measure, which possibly would hasten resolution of the problem of the status of the Kerch Strait and the Azov Sea on the basis of good-neighbor relations of fraternal states on principles of maritime international law.

Chernobyl Management Working To Retain Personnel

MM2707083194 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 19 Jul 94

[From the "Vesti" newscast: Video report from Chernobyl nuclear power station by Ye. Petrova, identified

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by caption; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds]

[Text] [Petrova] Is it necessary to close down the Chernobyl nuclear power station?

Specialists claim that at present the station is as safe as the Kursk, Smolensk, or Ignalina nuclear power stations where the same type of reactors are used. They are backed up by scientists. The shutdown and cooling of the power units would take a long time and would result in a loss of at least 13 percent of the current Ukrainian electricity output.

Furthermore, the money offered by the West is not sufficient to fund the closure of the station and the simultaneous construction of new power units which will not damage the environment. At the same time the staffing problem may grow more acute. In conditions of a constant threat of closure, the new management of the Chernobyl nuclear power station is doing its utmost to stop highly qualified staff from leaving, expending a lot of effort and money to provide them with social guarantees. Nonetheless, the debate around Chernobyl is not subsiding. Let's hope that Chernobyl will not become the latest pawn in the political game.

Cabinet Discusses Energy; Unit To Be Added to Nuclear Plant

AU2607132194 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 23 Jul 94 p 3

[Report by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers Department for Elucidating the Work of the Government: "A Session of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers Presidium"]

[Text] On 21 July, the Presidium of the Cabinet of Ministers held its session under the chairmanship of Ukraine's Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol. Urgent measures for providing the national economy and population with electric and thermal energy during the fall and winter of 1994-95 were discussed.

It was pointed out that a tense situation had taken shape in those branches that supply energy sources for the needs of the national economy and communal services. Consumer debt to enterprises of State Coal Industry, Ukrainian Gas Industry, and the Ministry of Power Engineering constitutes dozens of trillions of karbovantsi. As a result, the aforementioned enterprises do not have the funds to purchase equipment or materials, stockpile fuel, or finance repairs.

The existing system of benefits enjoyed by a considerable number of consumers in paying for thermal and electric energy and the absence of incentives for energy conservation promote squandering and wasting about one-third of energy sources produced in the country.

Based on the results of the discussion, a number of measured were outlined for stabilizing the work of power engineering enterprises. Corresponding ministries and departments, as well as local bodies of executive power must ensure stockpiling of the necessary amounts of fuel in storehouses of electric power plants and boiler houses, as well as fulfilling planned repairs.

The commissioning of the sixth power unit at the Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant is envisioned for the fourth quarter of the current year. Ways of financing the procurement of fuel for electric power plants and enterprises of communal thermal power engineering were formulated. These enterprises must be prepared for the winter season, and the construction of new facilities must be completed.

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Belarus

Lukashenka Supporters To Occupy Key Government Posts

LD2607135294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1250 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The committee for fighting corruption will be a separate structure in the administration of the first Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka, Interfax was told Tuesday by a presidential spokesman.

According to unofficial reports, the Committee will be headed by deputy chief of the section for fighting organized crime at the republic's Interior Ministry, Yuriy Malumov. During the election campaign he was dismissed from the Interior Ministry structures for supporting the anti-corruption commission led by Lukashenka.

Another supporter of Lukashenka during the election campaign, Afghan war veteran Viktor Sheyman seems likely to be appointed as secretary of the Security Council, a unit of the presidential administration.

Sources in Lukashenka's entourage say that at the first stage the number of personnel in the presidential structures will not exceed 150.

Assembly Protests Planned U.S.-Russian Military Exercises

WS2707093294 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1600 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The leadership of the Slav Assembly Belaya Rus has sent a letter to Boris Yeltsin and Russian Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin. The letter states:

The Slav Assembly Belaya Rus appeals to you to prevent the holding of joint U.S.-Russian military exercises in the heart of Russia's defense industry—southern Ural. The Slav Assembly Belaya Rus thinks that the holding of such exercises will only benefit the U.S. side and harm the interests of our entire great motherland.

Uladzimir Mayseyenka, head of the Slav Assembly press service, has reported that the statement was passed to the Russian Embassy in Belarus today.

Niobium Consignment Detained on Polish Border

LD2607193794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1830 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Belarusian border guards detained a nondeclared load of 1,380 kilograms of white powder-like substance while it was carried through the Belarusian-Polish border near Brest, the press service of the Command of the Belarusian Border Defense Troops told Interfax. The press service said a chemical analysis revealed that the load contained niobium—considered a strategic raw material.

The load was sent by the Moscow Vneshpromtekhobmen organization. Its value was assessed as several million dollars, INTERFAX learned.

Foreign Minister Urges Market Reforms

WS2707103194 Minsk BTK Television Network in Belarusian 1800 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Interview with newly appointed Belarusian Foreign Minister Uladzimir Syanko by "Panorama" newscast correspondent Viktar Kharkow, outside the Foreign Ministry building in Minsk; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Kharkow] In your opinion, what are the main aspects of the Republic of Belarus' foreign policy?

[Syanko] Every stage of our fatherland's historical development obviously requires some unique approaches. I think that the current difficult economic situation urges us to concentrate more closely on the search for possibilities to expand the economic cooperation of Belarus with foreign countries.

[Kharkow] What measures will you take to reinforce the professional personnel of the ministry

[Syanko] Nothing can be achieved here quickly. I think that the work of the last four years will continue to yield results into the future. I do not doubt it. We will continue the course of working with young personnel. In my opinion, this is the main direction, because it is impossible to find and adequately train a skilled diplomat in a short amount of time; this requires 6-10 years at a minimum.

[Kharkow] You have already been a deputy foreign minister, you have worked as a professional diplomat, recently—as ambassador to Great Britain. What can you say about Western—and, in general, global—attitudes toward the Republic of Belarus?

[Syanko] One has to admit openly and regretfully that Belarus, for the time being, is little known in Europe or on the American continent. This will undoubtedly require a lot of effort and time on our part. Much depends on how we will succeed with our economic reforms. I would like to stress that unless we implement true economic reforms and develop a market economy, the strengthening and recognizing of our sovereignty in the international arena will progress very feebly and slowly. Therefore, the success of our foreign policy is very much dependent on how the situation in Belarus develops, primarily in the economic sphere.

Privatization Utilizing Property Vouchers Viewed

WS2607130294 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Belarusian 22 Jul 94 p 1

[Report by Mikhail Valkowski: "It Is Too Late To Stop the Train"]

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[Text] Beginning 1 July, the mass privatization plan was launched in Belarus by selling share of enterprises in exchange for the "Mayomasts" [property] vouchers, which have been issued since 1 March. On average, one Belarusian citizen is allotted around 90 vouchers worth of approximately 2.25 million rubles. In total, securities had been presented to 1.7 million people, or to one-fifth of those entitled to them.

According to Zinaida Shawchenka, chief of the department of voucher privatization at the Ministry for Administration of State Property and Privatization, due to uncertainty caused by the presidential elections, the number of citizens claiming their "Property" vouchers has dropped significantly over the last two weeks (the increase amounted to only 0.5 percent). Nonetheless, privatization cannot be halted or implemented in some other way. Our citizens have already received over 91 million "Property" vouchers, and no one will dare take them back and wrong the people. It is also hardly possible to invent some other model of privatization.

Our citizens face a difficult choice: Which of the 61 enterprises on the privatization list should be chosen? Whose stocks should be bought in exchange for "Property" vouchers? There are already 4 million privatization vouchers worth of stock up for grabs; another 6 million have been reserved for working collectives. There is also an addendum to the first list, or, more precisely, a new list of 31 enterprises. Residents of Minsk will surely be interested in stocks of the "Kamunarka" confectionery, the Minsk-based worsted fabric factory, and other enterprises of light industry. There will be over 200 such enterprises by the end of this year. The list of these enterprises and the projected stock issues will be available in every branch of the Saving Bank.

For the time being, only two voucher investment funds have been licensed to work with "Property" privatization vouchers—the First Republican Investment Fund (Minsk) and the "Slavnafta" (Mozyr). According to estimates by Pyotr Novik, a specialist in the Ministry for Administration of State Property and Privatization, one needs at least 20 such funds to satisfy public demand.

To avoid the pains of purchasing stocks or waiting for dividends (if there are any at all), one can simply sell one's own "Property" vouchers. There are already dozens of legal entities entitled to purchase and sell these securities (while buying an enterprise at auction, half of its cost should be paid in privatization vouchers). To sell privatization vouchers is an extremely simple task: You only have to visit a branch of the Saving Bank and sign over your vouchers to another owner. The state fee for this amounts to only 3 percent of the minimum wage. It is hard to say whether Belarusian privatization vouchers will be sold below or above their face value. There is no doubt, however, that many citizens will prefer cash today to dividends tomorrow. According to Zinaida Shawchenka, current privatization laws do not fully satisfy the practical needs of individuals. Therefore, there will be proposals made for improving the legal basis. Another inconvenience is uncertainty as to how long the voucher privatization will continue and what its exact terms will be.

Thus, the majority of us will soon become stockholders by purchasing stocks in certain enterprises or investment funds. The exchange of vouchers for stocks is a rather simple and clear process. Special advertisements will help people choose stocks properly. Some people will sell their stocks to other citizens or legal entities. Everyone will get what they want—citizens will get money, enterprises will get stockholders. It is not clear, however, what profit, and when, our economy will get from all this activity. Some positive results can be seen no earlier than the next century.

Moldova

Interior Ministry To Sign Interpol Documents

AU2607132594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2305 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 25/7/1994—In September of this year the Ministry of Interior will sign the documents on Moldova's adherence to the Interpol, told BASAPRESS Vladimir Solop, the head of the Criminal Police Department of the Moldovan Ministry of Interior. He pointed out that in September Constantin Antoci, Moldovan minister of interior, will leave for Rome, Italy, to participate in an Interpol conference, during which Moldova will be officially accepted as member of this international organization. Vladimir Solop declared to BASAPRESS that the Moldovan Government has already allocated the necessary sum to pay the admission fee. According to a previous declaration made by Victor Malic, counselor of the minister of interior, to BASAPRESS, to adhere to Interpol Moldova will have to pay four budgetary units, that is $45,000. The Interpol's annual membership fee is calculated depending on the adherent state's territory, the number of its population, and the delivered information. Ion Mihai, director of the Respect private detectives' bureau, stated to BASAPRESS that the bureau has not yet adhered to Interpol and that steps are being undertaken in this direction.

Parliament Passes Articles of Draft Constitution

AU2607165094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2305 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 25/7/1994—This morning Parliament began to examine the constitutional articles whose adoption was postponed until their reformulation. Article 32, on Freedom of Opinion and Expression, was adopted together with Paragraph 3, which stipulates the following: "Libeling of statehood and people and other manifestations attempting at the constitutional regime are prohibited and punished by laws." The deputies examined the articles on the 3d

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department in the Constitution on the public authorities' status. Among other things, Article 70, which stipulates the incompatibility of being a deputy and having a job, except for cases provided for by the law, was adopted. Ion Dediu, from the Peasants' and Intellectuals' Block, stated that a constitution of a sole party [reference to the ruling Democratic Agrarian Party of Moldova—PDAM] is now being adopted. He accused Nicolae Andronic [president of Parliament Permanent Commission for Law] of taking advantage of being deputy speaker to put pressures on the majority faction. At the examination of Article 77, on The Moldovan President, the constitutional commission proposed the variant "The president can be elected only twice." As a result of the intervention of President Mircea Snegur, who attended the session, the article was changed and had the following text: "The Moldovan president can be elected for two consecutive periods."

Vote Leaves Status of Russian Language Unchanged

MM2607133394 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 1

[Report from the PRAVDA, POSTFACTUM, ITAR-TASS roundup under the "News in Brief" rubric: "Speaking Russian Permitted in Moldavia"]

[Text] The parliament of Moldavia [Moldova] has adopted Article 13 of the new Constitution entitled "State Language: The Use of Other Languages." Despite the opposition of the pro-Romanian national radicals, Moldavian has been approved as the state language, not Romanian. The Russian language has been denied official status. The existing legislation governing languages, which envisages the right of citizens to use Russian in state institutions, remains in force.

Government Begins Privatization Program

LD2707051994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0457 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau] July 27 ITAR-TASS—The big sell-off of state and municipal enterprises begins in Moldavia [Moldova] today. The sale will be for inscribed securities issued to all citizens of the Republic in amounts reflecting every individual's service record.

The securities can be exchanged for shares in enterprises and organisations at auction sales. Some major enterprises, unique in the former Soviet Union, will be put on the block.

Opposition Rally Protests PDAM 'Dictatorship'

AU2607165794 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2305 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 25/7/1994—Yesterday, seven opposition parties and movements—the Free Peasants' Alliance, the United Democratic Congress, the Women's Democratic-Christian League, the Party of Liberal Democracy, the Ecologist Party, the National-Liberal Party, and the Reform Party—organized in Chisinau a rally to protest the Moldovan draft constitution. A declaration announced during the rally stated that "the assumption by the Moldovan Agrarian Democratic Party [PDAM] of the exclusive right to adopt the constitution and include in it only its electoral platform raised to the level of state ideology" is "a tendency to establish the dictatorship of this party, which in the 27 February elections received only 26.4 percent of the votes of the total number of Moldovan eligible voters." Deputy Valeriu Matei mentioned that along with the price increase on 1 June 1994 "the minimum consumption basket in Moldova stands at 237 lei per one person, while the minimum salary was increased from 13.5 to 18 and the pensions will be increased from 26 to only 42 lei" [figures as received]. He also said that more than 80 percent of Moldovan people live below the poverty level. Victor Popa, executive chairman of the Reform Party, stated that the constitutional article on public administration stipulates state power decentralization and local autonomy. He said that, however, these stipulations "will not be implemented" as the administrative-territorial organization pursued by the PDAM "is a Bolshevik one." Lida Istrati, from the Peasants' and Intellectuals' Block, stated that the replacement of the term "Romanian language" with "Moldovan Language" [to denote the official language of the country] "is the greatest sin of the current Parliament." Ion Hadarca, deputy chairman of the United Democratic Congress, told BASAPRESS that the rapprochement between the democratic parties and movements "could lead to the creation of a coalition, alliance, or electoral block; this would reanimate the national emancipation movement." Mihai Cimpoi, chairman of the Moldovan Writers' Union, stated to BASAPRESS that the rally "is the first large-scale reaction to the greatest untruths established by the constitution; one of such untruths is the return to the Stalinist term 'Moldovan language.'" The resolution adopted at the end of the rally states that "the Constitution adopted under the dictatorship of the parliamentary coalition of the PDAM, the Socialist Party, and the Interfront and the legitimation of erroneous concepts contradicting national interests as state ideology will lead to instability and dissension in society." The rally demanded that the Moldovan Parliament reexamine Article 13 and declare Romanian language as the official language of Moldova. Otherwise, protest manifestations will be organized.

CSCE Envoy Blames Dniester for Accords Violation

AU2607155894 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2305 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 25/7/1994—Dniester media reported about a meeting between the CSCE ambassador to Moldova, Richard Samuel, and Tiraspol president Igor Smirnov. The reports are so vague and incomplete that it is hard to say exactly what was

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discussed at this meeting. Nevertheless, independent sources state that the CSCE ambassador to Moldova met with Smirnov to state his objections concerning the violation by the Dniester side of the agreements on the security zone, specifically in Tighina (Bender), where the Tiraspol authorities founded a training center for the Dniester Armed Forces and deployed a KGB subunit. The same sources report that the ambassador mentioned other violations committed by the Tiraspol Armed Forces in the security zone, practically reiterating the same facts stated by the Chisinau representatives at a recent meeting of the Joint Control Commission.

Official Views Forthcoming Talks on 14th Army Pullout

AU2607170094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2305 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 25/7/1994—The information that the timetable on the 14th Army's withdrawal was established are unfounded, stated to BASAPRESS Vasile Sova, head of the CIS Department of the Moldovan Foreign Ministry. Sova is also a member of the Moldovan delegation to the negotiations on the 14th Army's withdrawal from eastern Moldova. Earlier, the Russian media relayed that Chisinau accepted the terms of withdrawal proposed by the Russian side. Sova said that the positions have remained unchanged—Russia insists on a three-year withdrawal period, while Chisinau on a 18-month period. The 10th round of negotiation will be held in Chisinau on 10-11 August. Sova did not exclude that Moscow and Chisinau could find a compromise. He pointed out that the prior round did not discuss 14th Army's transformation into a Russian military base. However, Moldova will not give in: Russia must withdraw its Army. He mentioned that in the nearest future the Moldovan and Tiraspol representatives will meet to discuss the elaboration of a special status for the eastern districts. This meeting will be mediated by Vladlen Vasev, President Boris Yeltsin's special envoy. "Such meetings will positively influence the negotiations on the 14th Army's withdrawal. Under the current circumstances delays should not be allowed for," Sova said. The 9th round of negotiations took place in Moscow one month ago. Local observers feel that with the forthcoming 10th round, which could be the most productive one, attempts will be made (in Parliament as well) to make the public believe that the Russian military base will stay in Moldova.

Tiraspol Allegedly Involved in Arms Sales to Abkhazia

AU2607165494 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2305 GMT 25 Jul 94

[Text] Tiraspol BASAPRESS, 25/7/1994—Sources from the 14th Army command told BASAPRESS that the 14th Army command has documents confirming that the so-called Dniester Republic Government bought weapons and munitions from the Tiraspol firm TNVi [expansion unknown], headed by a certain V.E. Podolyan. The transaction made last November totals $1,660,340. The contract signed by Igor Smirnov (president of the self-styled Dniester Republic) and E.V. Podolyan is numbered 15 and dated 29 November 1993. The secret appendix to the contract specifies that the Tiraspol authorities bought 2,000 Makarov pistols and 320 bullets for each of them; 3,000 AKS-47 machine-guns, 7.62 mm caliber; 2,000 AK-47 machine-guns, 7.62 mm caliber; 1,800,000 bullets, 7.62 mm caliber; 10,000 RGD-5 grenades and 20,000 RGO-78 grenades. According to the contract, "the merchandise delivered by the seller will be prepared for a long storage and be shipped by sea. The merchandise will be properly marked and wrapped." The contract stipulates that the Tiraspol Government will deposit the amount of dollars in the account No.6043303008 at the Ekspresbank in Dobrich, Bulgaria. The same sources gave some details on the events surrounding the transaction. Thus, a certain S. Ivanov, a brother of E.V. Podolyan's wife, who received 10 percent ($150,940) for the mediation was murdered on 14 May 1994 in Tiraspol. A Mercedes 600 limousine belonging to E.V. Podolyan, which was carrying documents regarding the delivery of the weapons and munitions to Abkhazia, Southern Ossetia, and Armenia, as well as a Stechkin pistol given to Podolyan by Smirnov himself as an appreciation for the successful transaction, was driven away. After Ivanov's death, Podolyan was repeatedly threatened on phone by the Dniester security, and as a result of this, he left the Dniester Republic and settled in Dobrich, Bulgaria. In the opinion of the same source, the weapons and munitions were delivered to Abkhazia from Bulgaria and shipped on over the Black Sea. Smirnov contacted Podolyan in the summer of 1993 to discuss the transaction. After a preliminary agreement, Smirnov left in October for Austria and transferred from there $1,500,000 on the bank account in Dobrich. It is not known who backs Smirnov and Podolyan in Moscow. The answer to this question can be found at the Russian Counterintelligence Service, say the same sources.

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Kazakhstan

Premier Tereshchenko, IAEA Director Sign Agreements

LD2607163094 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Kazakh 1400 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko today received Hans Blix, the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency who arrived in Alma-Ata [Almaty] yesterday. The government head conveyed warm greetings to him from Nursultan Nazarbayev. Agreements that we plan to sign, said the prime minister, will contribute to establishing closer cooperation between our republic and the International Atomic Energy Agency. Kazakhstan will soon have its own new nuclear reactors, noted Sergey Tereshchenko. The future belongs to this kind of energy. The Republic hopes that the agency will help Kazakhstan use it in accordance with the existing regulations. We are working on the production of pure drinking water under the auspices of this organization and with the help of a nuclear reactor. Kazakhstan has accumulated certain experience in this area and is ready to share it. Kazakhstan fully supports the IAEA in tackling the problems of the use of nuclear energy. Kazakhstan fully supports this, summed up the government head.

Our experts understand the problems of this Republic and are eager to render support in addressing them, said Hans Blix. Kazakhstan is a full-fledged member of the IAEA. Representatives of the agency know that nuclear energy is being used by Kazakhstan for peaceful purposes and under tough control. Therefore, the IAEA will not only render comprehensive support to Kazakhstan, but will also coordinate its cooperation with the United States in these issues.

The prime minister of Kazakhstan and Hans Blix signed an agreement on recognizing guarantees this afternoon at Friendship House. It laid down the legal basis for cooperation in the area of nuclear energy. The director general briefed journalists on the purposes of his visit and results of the job done. Also today, he held a news conference at the National Academy of Sciences. He met with representatives of scientific organizations, ministries, and departments of the republic. On Wednesday and Thursday Hans Blix and those who are accompanying him will visit the former nuclear test site in Semipalatinsk.

Instructions Issued on Credits, Debtor Enterprises

LD2607135394 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1230 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] [no dateline as received]—Prime Minister Sergey Tereshchenko has issued an instruction in connection with the fact that the day has come for the redemption of credits on interrepublican offsets and on preparation for introducing procedures and for clearing enterprise and organization accounts.

The republican banks have been instructed to submit before 1 August of this year a list of enterprises and organizations that have not redeemed credits on interrepublican offsets and to specify the sum of the debt.

The Ministry of Finance should publish in the mass media within a week a list of enterprises and organizations, their titles, and the locations and sums of overdue payments on offsets.

Commissions on interrepublican offsets under heads of regional administrations were instructed to examine the financial status of nonpaying enterprises and organizations. The results of this examination, along with the balance sheets of enterprises and organizations and the decoded [raschasrovki] supplement of debtors and creditors and relevant information, should be submitted to the Ministry of Finance before 10 August this year.

The Ministry of Economy, in its turn, should submit before 15 August to the state commission for interrepublican offsets a list of priority enterprises and organizations and the elaborated mechanism for clearing up their accounts and bankruptcies and should agree on it with the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Finance, the National Bank, the State Committee for State Property, and the State Committee for Price and Antimonopoly Policy.

In accordance with the instruction by the head of government, the Ministry of Finance extends till 15 August the day for redemption of credits on interrepublican offsets.

Kyrgyzstan

Kyrgyzstanis Can Serve in Russian Border Troops

LD2607130594 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 2300 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] An agreement has been signed in Moscow on military service by citizens of Kyrgyzstan in the Russian Federations's frontier troops on the territory of Russia. It was signed by Major-General Nikolayev, commander in chief of Russian frontier troops, and Major-General Subanov, Kyrgyzstan minister of defense. The document says that citizens of Kyrgyzstan could serve in the Russian frontier troops in accordance with a contract or by order.

Tajikistan

Defense Ministry Troops Killed, Captured in 'Major Clash'

LD2707083394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0739 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 27 Jul—A total of 12 servicemen of the Tajik Defense Ministry were killed and at least dozens were taken prisoner of war as a result of a major clash between the National Army subunits and a grouping of the armed opposition that took place last night near the village of Khait, where Tadzhikabad and Garm regions meet, approximately 180-200 km to the east of Dushanbe, ITAR-TASS has learned from a well-informed source in Dushanbe's military circles.

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Peacekeeping Forces Search for Kidnapped Servicemen

LD2607125894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1003 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Dushanbe, 26 July—Collective peacekeeping forces deployed in the republic of Tajikistan have joined in the action to free the Tajik POW's, an ITAR-TASS correspondent learned today from well-informed sources close to the joint command of the joint collective peacekeeping forces.

At the request of the Tajik Government they have agreed to take on the role of intermediary and to seek contact both with the Tavildara opposition grouping and the leaders of the democratic opposition of Gorno-Badakhshan. Representatives of the joint command of the collective peacekeeping forces are presently in Khorog and the rayon center of the Pamir's Darvazskiy [as received] rayon and in the Khalai-Khumb rayon center [as received].

According to the source, the exact whereabouts of the over 50 servicemen of the National Army who were captured by a Tavildara armed grouping on the night of 21-22 July have not yet been established. However, one version does not exclude the possibility that they may have been taken to Afghanistan. In this connection, subunits of the Russian frontier troops guarding this section of the border have been put on heightened combat alert with a view to averting the illegal movement of the Tajik POW's.

However, one source thinks that if the captured men are really in Darvazskiy rayon which borders on central Tajikistan, it's more likely that they will be handed over to representatives of the collective peacekeeping forces in order to avoid serious consequences. In Tavildarinskiy rayon itself, the military operation involving the helicopters leading the search for the Tajik servicemen and also for the armed opposition groupings deployed here is continuing. During the operation on Monday evening two armored vehicles seized by the armed opposition along with the captured soldiers of the National Army were destroyed from the air.

Authorities Discuss Hostage Situation

LD2707102894 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0500 GMT 27 Jul 94

[Text] Gharibsho Shahbozov, chairman of the soviet of people's deputies of Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast, has convened an emergency meeting of the leadership of the law enforcement and other powerful bodies of the oblast.

The meeting discussed the issue of more than 50 government soldiers taken hostage by the opposition. Sulaymonbekov, head of the oblast's national security committee, informed the participants that the soldiers were taken prisoner last Friday [22 July] and that they have been transferred to the territory of Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast from Tavildara Rayon via mountainous routes.

Shahbozov, chairman of the oblast soviet, instructed the powerful oblast bodies to utilize all possibilities and not allow the hostages to be transferred to Afghanistan and to make efforts to free them as soon as possible.

Colonel Neroyev, deputy commander of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan, explained the operational plan of the border guards, the government troops,and other powerful oblast bodies for freeing the hostages from the opposition forces.

Opposition Leaflets Warn Russian Troops Against Regime

MM2607122594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "Opposition Urges Russian Military Not To Interfere in Internal Tajik Conflict"]

[Text] Leaflets urging the Russian servicemen in Tajikistan not to interfere in the internal Tajik conflict and not to support the "criminal regime existing in the country which has totally lost the people's trust" appeared on Monday [25 July] morning in Dushanbe. The leaflets are signed by Said Abdullo Nuri, the leader of the armed Tajik opposition and head of the unrecognized government in exile. The leaflets were pasted in subways and bazaars in the Tajik capital. Two months ago leaflets of similar content signed by Tajik field commander Rezvon appeared in Dushanbe and its environs.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Visits, Holds Talks in Surkhandarya Oblast

LD2607143894 Tashkent Radio Mashal in Uzbek 1330 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Uzbek President Islam Karimov arrived today in Termez, the center of Surkhandarya Oblast. It is known that this historical city is positioned at the southern borders of Uzbekistan. Karimov visited the border regions and viewed the conditions there. Karimov visited the Hayratan Friendship bridge between Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. He talked with the young servicemen recently called up for service. He then met with the activists of Surkhandarya Oblast. The leaders [hakim] of the oblast, the cities, and the districts, and their deputies, the procurator's office, and leaders of public organizations participated in this meeting.

The president of the Republic spoke on the progress of the reforms in Uzbekistan—including in Surkhandarya—the steps taken in the economy of the oblast in this area, and particularly on the problems in the economy. The reports of the leaders of the cities and districts were heard, and tasks for the improvement of the economic, social, and material life, particularly in the Bandikhan district, were outlined.

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Armenia

Official on President's Planned Clinton Talks

LD2607170094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1518 GMT 26 Jul 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No. 142 (632): Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; Edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] During his official visit to Washington beginning on August 7 President Levon Ter-Petrosyan intends to hold talks with the U.S. Administration on a political settlement of the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh.

His press secretary Levon Zurabyan told INTERFAX that on August 9 Ter-Petrosyan expects to meet President Bill Clinton. He also said possible American support for Armenia in international organizations, in particular in questions of humanitarian aid, will also be discussed during the visit.

The press secretary hoped for understanding with the American side during the discussion of all these matters.

Meanwhile, Yerevan has refrained from any concrete comments on Moscow's proposals on Karabakh saying that negotiations are under way and any comments would harm an effective discussion and implementation of new peace initiatives, Russian among others.

An envoy of the Russian president Vladimir Kazimirov who toured Yerevan, Baku and Stepanakert at the end of last week met the leaders of conflicting sides to discuss the draft of a large-scale political agreement on the settlement of the Amenian-Azeri conflict.

Kazimirov told Interfax that the sides are now willing to speed up the signing of the political agreement strengthening the ceasefire. According to him, the agreement provides for a series of military and technical steps reliably guaranteeing a ceasefire such as the separation of troops of the conflicting sides and the deployment of a neutral peace-keeping force in the buffer zone.

The diplomat believes that the document should be signed by Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh as the sides the conflict. In his opinion later Nagorno Karabakh should get the status of an autonomous republic within Azerbaijan.

A secretary of an Armenian parliamentary committee for Nagorno- Karabakh Suren Zolyan told Interfax Moscow's new plan fully ignores the fundamental question of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh, while Karabakh should make unilateral concessions without any guarantees. In Zolian's opinion the new Russian initiative is more of a propaganda stunt and an indication of the Russia's political activeness in the region.

Answering a question about the possible coordination of approaches of Russia and the CSCE to Karabakh Zolyan said it is the business of the mediators and there are little fundamental differences between them.

According to a spokesman for the Azeri president, the conflict should be settled politically by the end of the summer so as to start returning Azeri refugees to their homes and freeing Azeri lands at the beginning of autumn. The official also felt that all members of the Minsk group of the CSCE should be involved in the peace-making force to be deployed in the area.

Papazyan, Iran's Velayati Speak by Telephone

NC2607120494 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0644 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Yerevan ("Azg" daily), 07/26/94—RA [Republic of Armenia] Minister of Foreign Affairs Vahan Papazyan held a telephone conversation with the Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Ali Akbar Velayati on July 23.

The Iranian Minister was most of all interested in peace efforts towards the resolution of the Karabakh conflict and the recent events in this direction. Vahan Papazyan provided him with detailed information in this regard.

The sides also discussed several other problems of mutual interest. Both ministers noted the necessity of increasing the level of relations between the two countries. A principal agreement has been reached in this regard.

IAEA Experts Arrive To Inspect Nuclear Power Plant

NC2607133594 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0644 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Yerevan ("Respublica Armenia" daily), 07/26/94—A group of IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] experts, Anik Karnino and Zdenek Chris arrived to Yerevan on July 22.

Together with "Armstateatomcontrol", they inspect the work on deconservation [activation] of the Armenian Nuclear Power Plant. A meeting with RA [Republic of Armenia] Prime Minister Vigen Chitechyan and a press conference will be held today.

National Democratic Union Holds Rally

944K1815A Yerevan RESPUBLIKA ARMENIYA in Russian 19 Jul 94 p 1

[Article by Armen Khanbabyan under the rubric "Rally": "An Armenian Silver Lining for the Cloud of Aliyev's Defeats"]

[Text] On Friday [15 July] night, the NDS [National Democratic Union] held yet another of its rallies at Freedom Square which, by the most conservative estimate, drew no fewer than 50,000 participants. Just like last time, most of the participants in the rally were people of respectable age. Just like the previous rally, the

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authorities became the object of the bluntest criticism by the now very familiar speakers—Ashot Manucharyan, Shavarsh Kocharyan, Arshak Sadoyan, and others. However, frankly the recent rally made an alarming and dismal impression, unlike other NDS events. For considerations of propriety it is impossible to reproduce the epithets which Ashot Manucharyan, who openly called for physical violence against all "accomplices of the regime," used to characterize his recent comrades-in-arms. One may get the impression that, rather than in the heat of political polemics, Manucharyan was using more than just violent language in reference to state leaders as part of a clear-cut political design: to ensure an adequate response from the authorities in order to acquire a "martyr's" halo, and subsequently the so-called "open trial" at which, for sure, "the whole truth will come out." However, it appears that he is not even concealing it. It is another matter how conceivable—even theoretically conceivable!—an "open trial" is with a person who by virtue of his former position is privy to state secrets participating as the accused. We would think that our suppositions about the obvious striving of the former adviser "to suffer for the idea" should not insult Manucharyan. As it were, the conclusion will have to be drawn otherwise that he has poor control over his statements, and in this instance emotions clearly prevail over reason. We would not like to make such a supposition with regard to a person who has the image of a politician.

Kocharyan's assessments were also quite sharply worded. A considerable proportion of his presentation targeted journalists who have displeased him, Kocharyan, in some way. Is it worthwhile to explain that attacks against the writing profession are absolutely not the custom throughout the world and testify at the very least to lack of political culture? Esteemed gentlemen, journalists do their jobs, difficult and very often thankless, and it is unbecoming to teach them how this job is to be done, to say nothing of threatening them. Such methods of "working with the press" smack of something that is almost forgotten, but very familiar. However, what can one expect of a nonprofessional if even a journalist-colleague, who, forgetting the elementary ethics of the guild, allows himself to speak at the same rally and blast his writing brethren, blaming them for the existence of difficulties that are the same for all of us! If we take into account the fact that the same colleague considers it possible to make pejorative and insulting characterizations of the employees of other mass media, it will become obvious that his behavior and statements are not at all dictated by professional interests but by completely different, political interests. However, in this case journalism should not be mentioned.

It was also unpleasant that certain young people who did not by far behave as they do "in the best houses in Philadelphia" periodically tried to interfere with the progress of the rally, which became the reason for the crush and commotion. It is no secret that this can entail quite undesirable consequences in a large gathering of people.

The speakers talked a lot about Karabakh issues, too. NDS leaders also consider the policy of the authorities in this area incorrect and give the "regime" no credit for the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic gaining de facto independence. Vazgen Manukyan called on those at the rally not to worry about the destabilization of the domestic political situation in Armenia being able to unfavorably influence the situation along the Karabakh front lines. In his words, there should be no apprehension about that. The NDS has a program and opportunities to control the situation, and the change in power (this is precisely what the talk at the rally was about, as well as the need to adopt a competitive constitution to that of the president) will not cause military defeat in Karabakh.

Frankly, this is hard to believe. Our internal squabbling has forever played into the hands of outside adversaries. The history of the Armenian people makes this absolutely clear. It is easy to imagine the enthusiastic anticipation of the occurrence of the worst-case scenario with which those in Baku and Ankara are now monitoring the development of events here. Any weakening of Armenia is capable of provoking the Azerbaijani side into yet another attempt at an offensive. In this case not only will the current cease-fire be broken but all the recent mediation efforts will be nullified. There will be new sacrifices—and big ones at that.

In light of the above, and without appeals for absolute unity (this is impossible in the environment of a democratic society to begin with), let us allow ourselves to express our hope that both the parties and the people will ultimately display sufficient maturity, political wisdom, and understanding of the immutable circumstance that domestic strife will unavoidably become the beginning of the end to our recent successes. This needs to be understood very clearly, especially in light of the fact that the NDS intends to regularly hold rallies in the future, too, and that its leaders have announced the beginning of a dialogue with other oppositional organizations. To be sure, once again it is not quite clear what the planned new "dashink" will amount to. Traditional parties are gripped by internal confusion, and the communists, to say nothing of the ONS-Kh [expansion not identified], will not agree to even a tactical rapprochement with the NDS. Who else is left?

The main point is that for now the National Democrats lack a major social base. They will have to count on the underclass—and that after all the assurances concerning their adherence to democracy, a market economy, and so on.

...It appears that power is gradually becoming a quite attractive thing. Incidentally, this is not all that bad: Apparently the state of affairs in our state is improving somewhat. As it is, nobody would be forcing their way to

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the helm of a sinking ship. Since they are forcing their way, it means that they know that the ship is not about to sink.

Azerbaijan

Kazimirov Sees No Alternatives to Russian Project

NC2607114094 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0644 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Baku ("Azg" daily-Past) 07/26/94—Special Envoy of the Russian President Vladimir Kazimirov has arrived to Baku again.

For the first time ever, he first visited Yerevan, and then Baku, though, according to the Azeri Minister of Foreign Affairs Gasan Gasanov, the sequence of visits has no principal significance.

Azeri President Geydar Aliyev accepted Kazimirov, and the sides discussed the great peace agreement. Gasan Gasanov reported that in parallel with the primary Russian agreement, they will simultaneously continue to work on the project proposed by the Chairman of the CSCE Minsk group Ian Eliasson.

In an interview to the Azeri "Azadlig" daily Kazimirov said, the CSCE project, in fact, does not exist and it is not clear with what should Russia compare its project. "Therefore, I declare that there is no alternative to the Russian project," said Kazimirov. Questioned whether only Russian troops will implement the disengagement functions he said, the problem can't be resolved by mere stationing of international observers as they will not be able to take the warring parties apart. With stationing of troops, a buffer zone will be created, which will disallow the sides to carry out mutual shelling.

Kazimirov also concerned the documents, discussed in Vienna. He noted that the Russian project, Minsk group schedule, Eliasson's proposal and protocol of intentions, developed in Prague in April, have been discussed.

Minsk group's schedule consists of two parts. First states the necessity of calling the Minsk conference, though it is clear that Azerbaijan will disagree to participate in the conference until the future of Lachin and Shusha is defined. The second part concerns the demands, stated by the joint commission. "In other words, this is Eliasson's proposal on sending observers to the region. Is this an alternative? The Russian project suggests an agreement, not a schedule. A political agreement is a legal document. The sides who sign it will accept definite responsibility. Therefore I insist that there is no alternative to the Russian project," added Kazimirov at the end.

Baku Unhappy With Moscow Peace Plan for Karabakh

MK2607111694 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 4

[Report by Sergey Tsekhmistrenko: "Baku Does Not Believe Moscow"]

[Text] For three months now there has been relative calm on the Karabakh fronts. This calm however is deceptive. Yerevan and Stepanakert on one hand, and Baku on the other, have not taken a single step towards each other during this time. In order to prompt the sides somewhat toward dialogue, last week the Russian president's special representative Vladimir Kazimirov went to the region. Last weekend he held negotiations with the Azerbaijani leadership.

Kazimirov's latest mission, just as his previous ones, is taking place amid utmost secrecy. Official reports are rather laconic: "An exchange of opinions took place on ways of resolving the Karabakh problems, as well as on the positions of the parties to the conflict." Nonetheless, it is clear that in the course of the negotiations, the Russian diplomat explained the essence of Moscow's plan for a settlement, the main element of which is the conclusion by the parties to the conflict of a so called big political agreement. Immediately upon its signing the plan's implementation will go ahead.

According to INTERFAX, it includes several stages. The first is disengagement, within three days, of the conflicting sides' formations to a distance of 5-10 km, and heavy equipment up to 20 km; the withdrawal, within two days, of Armenian forces from the Agdam and Fizuli districts of Azerbaijan; the creation of a security zone, including disengagement forces (Moscow insists that they should consist of Russians), and the placement of observers. At this stage Armenian troops are to be pulled out of Dzhebrail district of Azerbaijan. Within the same period exchange of hostages and war prisoners is to be completed. This stage also envisions the return of police and refugees to Agdam and Fizuli districts. The third stage—which will take up approximately three weeks—provides for the liberation of the Zangelan, Kubatlin, and Kelbadzhar districts of Azerbaijan, the reopening of the Kazakh (Azerbaijan)-Idzhevan (Armenia)-Nakhichevan (Azerbaijan) gas pipe line, and the restoration of railway and motor communication links. And finally at this stage the status of Nagorno-Karabakh will be discussed and, depending on the outcome, the fate of the Azerbaijani towns of Lachin and Shusha.

Yet so far Russia's proposals are not meeting with due support in the region. The main opponent is still Baku, fearing that should Russian troops be introduced into the republic, it will end up unduly dependent on Moscow. Therefore Baku favors an internationalization of peacekeeping. Last Friday Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov stated that if a decision is made to introduce "blue helmets" into the region, they should include military contingents of the CSCE Minsk group member states: the United States, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Hungary, Turkey, Belarus, and Russia. None of the contingents should exceed 30 percent of the overall strength of peacekeeping forces. Such an approach will hardly suit Russia. But it obviously suits Turkey's interests. That country's government has already come out with an initiative to send Turkish

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peace keepers to Azerbaijan (naturally, on request from Baku), while a corresponding sanction by the Turkish parliament is expected in early September.

Economic, Industrial Agreement Signed With Greece

NC2607194994 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry press service reports that an agreement on economic, industrial, and technological cooperation between Azerbaijan and Greece was signed today at the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry. Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov and Greece's Ambassador to Azerbaijan Panayiotis Karakasis signed it for Azerbaijan and Greece respectively.

Defense Minister on Situation in Republic, Russian Ties

MK2607110394 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 26 Jul 94 p 3

[Interview with Azerbaijan Defense Minister Mamedrafi Mamedov by Nikolay Plotnikov, NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA's military commentator: "Mamedrafi Mamedov: 'e Have Always Been Friendly with Russia and Shall Continue to Be.' Azerbaijan's Defense Minister on the Situation in the Conflict Zone and on Prospects of Russian-Azerbaijani Military Cooperation"; place and date not given]

[Text] [Plotnikov] How do you assess the situation in the zone of the Karabakh conflict?

[Mamedov] As is known, a cease-fire agreement has been reached. At the same time, the opposite side occasionally shells us. On one hand, this may be done in order to exert continuous psychological pressure on the soldiers, and on the other, to compel us to sign agreements that are unacceptable for us. I do not exclude that the shelling may be for purely provocative purposes: To force Azerbaijan's troops to retaliate. But no fire is being opened. A strict regime has been imposed for that. My deputies are constantly present in each sector, and they control heavy weapons. On the front line, too, each round of ammunition is counted. Furthermore, a special entry regime has been established in the combat area. In other words, we are doing everything not to be accused of violating the accords.

[Plotnikov] In an interview by one of Azerbaijan's leaders, a point was made that Azerbaijani soldiers do not know how to fight....

[Mamedov] I do not agree with such a statement. Recently the level of personnel training has grown considerably. Troop control and efficiency have improved.

[Plotnikov] What will be the fate of the Gabalin radar station? Judging by some reports in the western press, even the U.S. is showing concern about it....

[Mamedov] During the visit to the Azerbaijan Republic by Pavel Sergeyevich Grachev the question of the Gabalin radar was not raised. It is the property of our country but so far we do not have enough specialists capable of operating this installation. At present negotiations are under way with Russia about leasing the radar to it. No one needs to be concerned about the station. Russia and Azerbaijan will manage to come to terms and adopt a reasonable, mutually acceptable decision.

[Plotnikov] How would you characterize Russian-Azerbaijani military cooperation?

[Mamedov] We have always been friendly and we shall continue to be. In this respect there should be no bouts. Our cooperation will be growing with every passing day. Both sides are very interested in this.

[Plotnikov] Where are your officer cadres being trained?

[Mamedov] At the Baku Higher Combined-Arms School and the Baku Higher Naval Academy, which was one of the best in the former USSR. Incidentally, Russian boys are also studying here. This year seven people graduated from the academy and left for Russia. I think that we shall conclude a big contract with Russia on military cooperation, providing, in particular, for training military cadres in Russia and in Azerbaijan.

Meanwhile there is a strong wish and aspiration in Azerbaijan to extinguish the flame of war as soon as possible and to restore the Republic's territorial integrity within the borders approved and established by the UN. So that the people can return to their homes. The Russians may not even be aware of the number of refugees and forced resettlers in the Republic: Over one million. A substantial part of them are women, children, and old people. Moreover, nearly 50,000 Meskhetian Turks, who had to leave Central Asia as a result of interethnic conflicts, have found refuge in Azerbaijan. As a result of the war, 4,000 industrial and agricultural enterprises have been destroyed, 180,000 homes, and approximately 1,000 education facilities. Some 70 percent of the Republic's agricultural lands are in the zone of combat actions. I shall not tire you with figures; in any event, though, human fates lie behind each of them. I should like to stress that while remaining committed to a peaceful resolution of the conflict, we shall be fighting consistently for the liberation of our territory.

Georgia

Pro-Georgian Group Against Troop Withdrawal From Kodori

LD2607142894 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1300 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] According to KONTACT NEWS AGENCY, the Public Advisory Board [sazogadoebrivi satatbiro] of the Council of Ministers of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic has circulated the following statement:

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The Gudauta separatists have made public a number of provocative statements lately, which result in an extremely dangerous and explosive situation in the Dali gorge [Kodori gorge]. The Abkhaz side insists stubbornly on the withdrawal of units of Georgian armed forces and sets this as a condition for the beginning of the process of return of refugees and displaced people to Gali rayon. A new treacherous act has been planned to disarm the Georgian population fraudulently. This would create an actual danger of an assault of certain armed units of Abkhaz separatists on Georgian villages of Abkhazian Svaneti and devastation and looting of the local population. In circumstances where [Russian] peacekeeping forces have failed to establish a fundamental order even in Gali rayon, it seems rather doubtful that they will be able to do this in an intricate area like the Kodori gorge and defend the local civilian population from an expected disaster.

Taking into consideration the above-mentioned incidents, the Public Assembly of the Council of Ministers of the Abkhazian Autonomous Republic appeals to the leadership of the Republic of Georgia and the commander in chief not to permit the withdrawal of military units from the Dali gorge and not to desert the ethnic Georgian population still residing there at a blind fate.

The statement was approved at the session of the Board on 26 July 1994.

Brigade Commander Discusses Country's Air Defense System

AU2207154394 Tbilisi THE GEORGIAN TIMES in Georgian 12 Jul 94 p 2

[Interview with Georgian Col. Zurab Aslanishvili, commander of the 1st Antiaircraft Missile Brigade, by Mamuka Dzebisashvili and Meri Tsiqelashvili; place and date not given: "The Georgian Air Space Guard"]

[Excerpts] The existence of an appropriate air defense system in the structure of an army testifies to its strength. It is a strong mechanism for protecting a country's airspace and its population. The formation of these types of troops is proceeding actively in Georgia and we have already achieved a certain amount of success. Air defense units have been formed in various rayons in the Republic on the basis of equipment transferred to us by the Russian Army. We spoke to Col. Zurab Aslanishvili, commander of the 1st Antiaircraft Missile Brigade.

[THE GEORGIAN TIMES] With what assignment has the 1st Antiaircraft Missile Brigade been tasked?

[Aslanishvili] It is an air defense brigade and its task is to protect Tbilisi, Rustavi, and Marneuli airspace. Our brigade has in its arsenal S-75 and S-125 type missiles that are distinguished by their excellent technical and tactical features. A similar brigade is located in Poti and in several other secret locations.

[THE GEORGIAN TIMES] As we discovered, your brigade's missiles were on show during the military parade on the day marking the restoration of Georgia's independence. There were evil rumors that they belonged to the Russian Army and our soldiers could not use these missiles in combat. To what extent is this true?

[Aslanishvili] This equipment belongs to the Georgian Ministry of Defense. It was transferred to us in January of last year. At that time, the military unit and its equipment were in a dreadful state. The Russian military and the local population stole and took away everything that could be taken. The robbers were mostly interested in the copper, gold, and silver from which parts of the equipment were made. We managed to put the equipment into working order and master it, and it can now already be used in combat conditions. Incidentally, in spring of this year, during Yeltsin's and [Russian Defense Minister] Grachev's visit, two of the three subunits of the 1st Antiaircraft Missile Brigade were used to protect the guests' plane.

[THE GEORGIAN TIMES] How is your contingent made up?

[Aslanishvili] The brigade is composed only of new recruits. It is better to train them as they will obtain a qualification in two years that they will use in the Georgian Army. In other words, their training and future inclusion in the structures of the Georgian Army is a much easier and cheaper business.

[THE GEORGIAN TIMES] If it is not a secret, where are the missile launchers located and is it possible, when necessary, to transfer them speedily to the conflict zone?

[Aslanishvili] The launchers are located outside the city. I cannot give you their precise location. Moving them speedily elsewhere does not present great difficulties.

[THE GEORGIAN TIMES] Does your brigade have secret weapons?

[Aslanishvili] They used to be secret. Moreover, they were never moved without their casings. Now, these missiles are no longer a secret as the Russians, Armenians, and Azeris know very well that we have them. They also know the combat features of these antiaircraft systems. Now only their location remains a secret.

[THE GEORGIAN TIMES] In what conditions are the missiles kept and are security regulations being observed?

[Aslanishvili] The missiles are kept in underground bunkers. [passage omitted] We have qualified specialists working with us and the Russian military are also cooperating with us; in particular, I would like to mention the work of Col. Petrov (the training of new recruits is based on a special program devised by him). [passage omitted]

[THE GEORGIAN TIMES] What can you say about the service personnel's remuneration and social protection?

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[Aslanishvili] The biggest problem is that the people work underground where they are exposed to poisonous substances. We have had cases of poisoning. Therefore, it is essential for these people to be treated and for conditions to be improved so that it is worthwhile working underground. The [monthly] salary of specialists does not exceed 1 million coupons.

[THE GEORGIAN TIMES] Do you have any contacts with the Group of Russian Forces in the Caucasus [GRFC], and Armenia and Azerbaijan?

[Aslanishvili] We have contacts with both the GRFC and Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is essential to work together as we will not achieve anything alone. Negotiations have already started on a single air defense system. This question was also on the agenda during Grachev's visit and it is hoped that it will soon be positively resolved.

[THE GEORGIAN TIMES] Relations between Georgia and NATO have started to take shape. How do you view this?

[Aslanishvili] Contacts with NATO are essential as they have a very powerful army and we can learn a lot. It is hoped that they will help us. I will remind you again of the state of our armed forces. We have few specialists, our equipment is old, and, in general, we have many problems. It is essential for us to use NATO's experience to overcome these problems. [passage omitted]

Russian Official on Role of Peacekeepers in Tbilisi

LD2607191894 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted]

Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov, who came to Tbilisi together with the delegation, said:

[Begin Pastukhov recording] Russian peacekeepers have not come here to separate Georgia from Abkhazia, or to turn themselves into Ardzinba's border troops. Absolutely not. They have a six-month mandate, and if their main task—the one for which we agreed to this operation—is not carried out, I am not at all sure that the mandate for their presence here will be extended. [end recording]

We do not know how the meeting between Federation Council representatives and Fedor Reut, commander of the Trans-Caucasian Group of Russian Forces, ended; correspondents were not allowed into the talks with the colonel general. Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state and one of the initiators of the deployment of peacekeeping forces in Georgia, who received the delegation, together with other republican leaders, was happy with the meeting. He said so afterward to the correspondents who had not been allowed in.

[Begin Shevardnadze recording] The most important issue for me is to get people back. I think Ardzinba should have an interest in this as well. If we do not now start to take more decisive and bold measures on returning people, there will naturally come a time of disappointment. [passage omitted]

Russian Assembly Delegation Arrives, Discusses Conflict

LD2607163594 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1430 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 26 Jul (IPRINDA)—A state delegation of the Federation Council of the Russian Federal Assembly headed by Vadim Gustov, chairman of the Committee for Relations with the CIS, has arrived in Tbilisi. The 10-strong delegation includes Deputy Russian Foreign Minister Boris Pastukhov.

On their arrival, members of the delegation met deputies of the Georgian Parliament and members of the Cabinet of Ministers. Issues pertaining to Abkhazia were discussed (the situation in the Kodori gorge, the return of refugees to their homes etc.). Boris Pastukhov said that it was not easy for Russia to send its peace-keeping forces to the conflict zone, first of all due to great financial expenses. Some 11 billion rubles were allocated for the purpose. According to Boris Pastukhov, the return of refugees to Gali rayon is a major issue at the moment; this will be followed in the future by their return to the rest of the Abkhazian territory.

Pastukhov also emphasized that Russia recognizes the territorial integrity of Georgia and will spare no efforts to have the conflict settled in a peaceful, political way.

Premier Talks With Japanese Delegation

LD2607164194 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1430 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—The press center of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers reports that Georgian Premier Otar Patsatsia met on 26 July a Japanese Government delegation headed (Kiroko Kako), president of the Japanese International House. The prime minister acquainted the guests with some aspects of the economic crisis in Georgia. He said that the world community regards it as essential to render assitance to Georgia at this difficult time and recognizes Georgia's territorial integrity.

The necessity of extending cultural and economic ties between Georgia and Japan was emphasized. The two sides pointed out that there is a basis for this. This should begin by opening Japanese cultural and business centers in Georgia and Georgian ones in Japan.

Prime Minister Announces Electricity Restrictions

AU2607152194 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 20 Jul 94 p 1

[BS-PRESS report under rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies"]

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[Text] In accordance with a decree of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers on emergency measures in the work of the fuel and energy complex, a severe schedule for supplying the population with electricity (between three and five hours per day and night) will come into force as of 20 July, stated Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia. This document was given today for signing to Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze.

Commenting on this decision, Otar Patsatsia pointed out that the government was forced to take this step in view of the serious situation in the energy system.

Shevardnadze Appoints Ambassador to Iran

AU270/075294 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 20 Jul 94 p 1

["Edict of the Georgian Head of State on the Appointment of J. Giunashvili as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Georgia in the Islamic Republic of Iran"]

[Text] To appoint Jemshid Giunashvili as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Georgia in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Signed] E. Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze Speaks at Party Meeting

LD2607174594 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpts] The results of the Russo-Georgian conference on economic cooperation and investments, as well as preparation of the country for the coming winter, were the topics of the expanded meeting of the Council of the Union of Georgia's Citizens held in the Tbilisi Cinema House on 25 July. [passage omitted]

The principal result of the conference, which was held at the initiative and active participation of the Union of Georgia's Citizens, was the signing of 41 agreements on cooperation and a statement on intentions in the spheres of vehicle assembly, power engineering, metallurgy, oil-refining, and other sectors. According to Zurab Koridze, the head of state's economic adviser, the results of work and the facts and figures are being summed up and will soon be submitted to the Georgian head of state and the public. [passage omitted]

Eduard Shevardnadze thanked Zurab Zhvania and the action team for arranging the conference. We are happy that agreements have been reached over the construction of the Hudoni power station, the refurbishment of the Tbilisi power station, and Georgia's fuel supply, Shevardnadze said. I cannot help expressing my regret over the passive attitude toward this event adopted by the Georgian diaspora in Moscow, Eduard Shevardnadze went on. I primarily mean big businessmen. None of them has shown any interest in prospects of cooperation with their motherland. [passage omitted]

The results of the meeting were summed up by Eduard Shevardnadze. According to him, a special decree is being prepared for signing. The decree will instruct specific departments and officials to handle issues of preparation for the winter more thoroughly.

In conclusion, the Georgian head of state acquainted the meeting with information received from personal representatives of Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. In order to invigorate the peacekeeping process and help refugees to return to their homes in Abkhazia, the headquarters of the peace-keeping forces in the Abkhaz-Georgian conflict presently stationed in Sukhumi and virtually cut off from the events in the Inguri river area will be moved to Gali rayon.

Patsatsia Says Grain Reserves Will Run Out End of Aug

AU2607152594 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 20 Jul 94 p 1

[BS-PRESS report under rubric "According to Reports From Correspondents and Information Agencies": "Georgia's Grain Reserves Can Last Only Until End of August"]

[Text] Georgia's grain reserves will last only until the end of August, said Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia at a press conference on 18 July. The republic requires in total 400,000 tonnes of grain until the end of 1994.

The prime minister pointed out that the Georgian Government was pinning definite hopes on the United States and Canada that promised to allocate 100,000 tonnes each.

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Estonia

Meri: Troop Withdrawal 'Key' to Negotiations With Yeltsin

LD2607114894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1044 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri considers the withdrawal of the remaining 2000 Russian servicemen by August 31 as the key to his negotiations with Russia's President Boris Yeltsin scheduled for Tuesday, according to a statement released by Meri's office before his departure for Moscow at about 11:30 Moscow time, adding that a positive solution to this issue is essential for detente between Estonia and Russia.

Topics for the upcoming talks came under discussion at a meeting of the ruling Isamaa party Monday afternoon. Prime Minister Mart Laar told journalists at the end of the session that the cabinet based its approach on the fact that Russia must not only complete troop withdrawal by August 31 but transfer the Russian training center for submariners at Tallinn to Estonian control. The facility is equipped with two nuclear reactors.

As to the rights of Russian military pensioners to reside in Estonia, which is one of Moscow's demands, Laar noted that "Estonian laws are liberal enough as they are." He also stressed that "Russia should realize that it will not force us to sign treaties similar to that with Latvia."

"We have different laws, and if Russia accepts this and takes world wide support for Estonia into account, it will help to resolve the problems," Laar said.

Sees No Obstacle to Accords' Approval

LD2607204194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1818 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Petr Cheremushkin]

[Text] Moscow, 26 Jul—Estonia's President Lennart Meri does not see any obstacles to the national parliament approving the Russian-Estonia accords reached today at a meeting with Russian leader Boris Yeltsin.

In the Estonian parliament a consensus has arisen regarding the fact that the Russian troops must leave the country before 31 August. At the same time Russian pensioners' rights will be observed, L. Meri stated at a meeting with journalists at the "Radisson-Slavyanskaya" hotel late this evening. Recently a joint statement on this matter, signed by the prime minister, the parliament's speaker, and myself, was adopted, L.Meri recalled.

The Estonian foreign minister added that persons "representing a threat to Estonia's national security," including, for instance, former officers of the Main Intelligence Directorate, do not come under the accord on granting citizenship to Russian military pensioners.

Russia Continues Removal of Military Hardware

LD2607151694 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1200 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Excerpt] A large landing ship, BDK-110, belonging to the Russian Navy, arrived in Paldiski harbor today. The ship came to collect from Estonia the hardware of Keila tank division. Rein Luks, the commandant of Paldiski, told ETA that the ship has permission to visit Paldiski harbor between today and 31 August. Loading work should commence tomorrow. Servicemen at Keila tank division neither confirmed nor denied the intention to load the ship.

Luks also said that the loading of the KIL-926 buoy tender, a Russian Navy auxiliary vessel, has been completed in Paldiski today. Heavy goods vehicles, fuel trucks, and other hardware will be removed on its board from Amari airport. The captain has begun to sign off his vessel, so to speak, and has announced that it would leave Paldiski harbor tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Lithuania

Belarusian Official Arrives for Talks on Border, Railway

WS2707074194 Tallinn BNS in English 1515 GMT 26 Jul 94

[Text] Minsk-Vilnius, 26 Jul, BNS—Belarusian Deputy Foreign Minister Stanislav Ahurtsow arrived in Vilnius on Tuesday [26 July] for consultations on Lithuanian-Belarusian border problems. In an interview with BNS, Ahurtsow said he intends to discuss three issues in Vilnius: delimitation and demarcation of the Lithuanian- Belarusian border in the Adutiskis station area; return of railroads that are subordinate to Lithuania but on Belarusian territory; possibilities to build a Lithuanian cultural center in the Astravo region in Belarus.

Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Rimantas Sidlauskas said he intends to meet with Ahurtsow Tuesday evening at the Vilnius Philharmonic, where a concert will be held to mark Belarus' Independence Day, and to suggest a working meeting Wednesday morning.

Meanwhile, Ahurtsow's Wednesday agenda also includes a trip to Riga, where will attend the official opening of the Belarusian Embassy in Latvia.

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